





Henry Hopkins.

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MODERN TIMES;

OR,

ANECDOTES

OF THE

ENGLISH FAMILY.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

I dwell upon small matters being of opinion with Plutarch, that little circumstances show the real man better than things of greater moment.—*Guardian*, No. 6.

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1809.

MODERN TIMES:

(continued)

THE

BRITISH NATION.

BY JAMES COOPER.

Vol. II.

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MODERN TIMES.

CHAPTER X.

CAPTAIN ENGLISH made so rapid a progress towards recovery, that in a few days he was able to travel ; a few bruises being now the only remaining proofs of his fall.

He had squandered away all his cash at Brighton ; and, therefore, as it was necessary by some means or other to raise a fresh supply, he readily fell in with a scheme proposed by his aunt, that he should accompany Sir Philip and herself to Mitford-Place, where they intended to remain for a few days, and then proceed to Blackwood.

Mitford-Place was the residence of Mr. Prendergrant, an old acquaintance of Sir Philip English : and it was a constant rule with the two families never to pass each other's residence without making a friendly visit.

Mr. Prendergrant was a gentleman of large fortune, and descended from a most respectable family, which had acquired additional splendor from the alliances formed by his two daughters, who were very advantageously matched : the eldest daughter being married to an Irish peer, and the younger to a dignified clergyman, the son of a Baronet and nephew of an Archbishop.

There was one obstacle in the way of the proposed visit. Common politeness required that Lord Rivulet should not be excluded from the party ; at least, unless

he himself declined accompanying them, after the proposal had been communicated to his lordship : and Sir Philip did not like the thoughts of introducing such a rattle into the regular family he was going to visit.

But Mrs. Burrows had no sooner intimated to his lordship, that Sir Philip intended to stop at Mitford-Place for a day or two, on his way to Blackwood, than he began capering about the room as if overjoyed by the intelligence.

“ My dear Madam,” said his lordship,
“ it is the very thing. I was going there
“ myself, and should have carried Jack
“ English along with me, if he had not
“ been in such a d—d hurry, to see the
“ Countess of B—— : —I mean.—to pay
“ his respects to yourself, Madam, and
“ his uncle,—for Dick Chaloner is there,

“ and has invited me to come and see him.
“ He tells me he is got married to a
“ daughter of Mr. Prendergrant.—Now,
“ you must know, that though the old
“ 'Squire does not know me, I have seen
“ this same daughter of his, and had half
“ a mind to marry her myself, but Dick,
“ who was always a sly fellow, has stole a
“ march upon me. So, Madam, when-
“ ever you are ready to set out for Mitford-
“ Place, I am your courier, with a great
“ deal of pleasure.”

“ I think,” said Sir Philip, who began to be tired of his lordship’s frivolity, “ that
“ as you are already acquainted with
“ the family, and consequently do not
“ stand in need of any introduction, it
“ might afford some convenience to Mr.
“ Prendergrant, if your lordship would
“ have the goodness to precede us,

“ and announce the arrival of so troublesome a party, for Jack still requires nursing, and we shall occasion much more trouble than I could wish to do.”

Lord Rivulet immediately consented; and it was agreed upon, that he should set off, for Mitford-Place, early in the day before that on which Sir Philip intended leaving Ryegate.

His lordship travelled with his usual expedition, and crossed the country as directly as possible, towards the place to which he was going, without much regarding hedges or ditches.

As he passed through the neighbourhood of Clandon, the opening of a pack of fox-hounds had such an effect upon both his lordship and his horse, that, without regarding the intention, with which he

had set out, he immediately joined the hunters; and, in the course of a few hours, had traversed all the wild country which lies to the south-west of Dorking, until reynard, making a push for the river Mole, crossed it near Beachworth-Castle, and getting into the turnpike road, turned short to the right, and passed, in full view, through the town of Ryegate, and before the window of the inn where Sir Philip English and his sister observed Lord Rivulet among the foremost in the pursuit.

The fox being nearly run down, had recourse to a stratagem; for entering a tanyard, he swam through one of the pits, and then depositing himself among a quantity of raw hides, eluded the sagacity of his pursuers.

The dogs, rushing into the yard after the fox, precipitated themselves into the

pits, and then scattering the offensive liquid over every one they came near, were attacked, with incredible fury, by two large mastiffs, the guardians of the yard, who, as if animated by resentment for the boldness of such an intrusion, seized first one, and then another of the hounds, in a manner the most ferocious.

In vain did the huntsman exert his authority, to recal his hounds ; in vain did the company attempt to draw them off from the perilous engagement.

Some of the workmen, bespattered by the offending hounds, took up cudgels to chastise them, and drive them out of the yard : and such a scene of confusion has been seldom witnessed.

Lord Rivulet was, of course, one of the first to exert and distinguish himself ; and being more liberal in the use of his

whip, than was quite prudent, struck one of the tanners, who immediately returned the favour by seizing one of his lordship's legs and sousing him, head foremost, into the next vat.

Those who have happened to inhale the effluvia so generally spread abroad by the delicate process of making leather (and every one who has had occasion to visit the neighbourhood of Bermondsey Spa must necessarily be included in that number), may form a faint idea of the condition of a young nobleman, who had been cast, *hissing hot*, into one of those cauldrons of impurity: but the picture still remains to be filled up by a group of tanners insulting him with vulgar mockery, on emerging from the Stygian fluid, and forcibly re-mounting him on a piece of raw-hide dipped in tan, which they had thrown over his saddle:

whilst his brother sportsmen, deterred by their apprehensions of similar treatment, were discouraged from interfering in his behalf.

Lord Rivulet cursed and raved, but to no purpose ; and as soon as he had got out of the yard was glad to make a precipitate retreat : leaving the rest of the party to settle the dispute between the dogs and the tanners, as well as they could.

The chase thus abruptly terminated, his Lordship made the best of his way towards Ryegate, attracting more observation as he rode along, than John Gilpin himself ; and literally dripping and drizzling like a steak, presented himself at the door of the inn, amidst the shouts of a crowd of boys who followed his horse, hailing him all the way with the excla-

mation, " See the yellow man ! see the
" yellow hunter ! "

It was a considerable time before his Lordship could, by the performance of repeated ablutions, disencumber himself of the filth which adhered to his skin, and which had so effectually laid hold of it, that a pair of fine dark eye-brows were entirely *depilated*, and sent after his front teeth ; and almost all his hair came off.

As to his clothes, they were completely spoiled ; and his skin was so sore in consequence of the bath, and his efforts to purify himself from the villainous smell, that his visit to Mitford-Place was necessarily postponed.

His Lordship, however, insisting that he should be able to follow the party in a day or two, desired Sir Philip to signify

his intention to *Parson Dick*, as he called him ; but intreated the Baronet to say nothing about the accident by which he was detained. “ It was a d——d foolish “ adventure, Sir Philip,” said his Lordship, “ worse than the donkies at the “ masquerade. Jack, tell the Baronet “ about the donkies.”

Captain English accordingly, being urged to give an account of the particulars for which his Lordship had referred to him, related—that Lord Rivulet and himself having resolved to quiz some of the *jessamies*, at a masquerade, had equipped themselves as gardeners, and mounted on two asses, had actually got admitted among the company. They hooted and bawled, as Jack said, till they were both hoarse, and then drank rum out of a flask bottle, and lighting their

pipes, which had been previously filled with equal parts of tobacco, fish-skin, and assafoetida almost suffocated the company.

Whilst they were thus notably employed, a wag had hired a couple of chimney sweepers to attend at the door with their soot bags ; and the heroes of the farce being at length tired of their frolic, and about to depart, the chimney-sweepers opening their sacks, in each of which was a peck or two of soot, dexterously threw them with their contents, over the heads of the adventurers, who with great difficulty escaped being smothered ; and, with still greater, avoided the discipline which the mob in the street were prepared to have given them, if their asses had not been unusually tractable and fleet of foot !

The Baronet expressed great displeasure

on hearing of this exploit; and gave both his Lordship and Jack a very severe lecture on their folly, accompanied by a declaration to the latter, that (to use his own expression), if he did not take up and reform, he would withdraw his allowance and reduce him to a state of absolute dependance upon those with whom he now associated as their equal.

English, however, never lost his good humour; and the only reply he made to his uncle was, “ I am sure, Sir, you would
“ suffer as much in your mind by such an
“ act of cruelty, as I should, by the loss
“ of your bounty. But you know that it
“ is an old saying, when times are at the
“ worst, they must soon mend, and I
“ really think, that on that very principle,
“ both Rivulet and myself shall soon shew
“ symptoms of improvement. We have

“ only to apply our winnings at the
“ Spring meeting ; and the bet upon Crib
“ and Dutch Sam, to the use of the So-
“ ciety for the *Encouragement* of Vice,
“ and we shall get sanctified in five mi-
“ nutes.”

“ D—me, Jack, said his Lordship, “ if
“ that is not the very thing. Colonel Cus-
“ tard you know, hushed up that little sly
“ affair about black-eyed Polly,—by the
“ help of the saints : and swindling Nick
“ was washed as white as snow, by the
“ damsels in the Penitentiary.”

“ It is a great pity, my Lord,” said Sir
Philip, “ that some of those damsels had
“ not been with you in the tan-yard.”

“ So it is, Sir Philip; and, when I pay
“ my subscription, I will make an agree-
“ ment, that half a dozen, or half a score,
“ shall attend me whenever I choose it.

“ They shall ride a hunting with me, if
“ there are any tan-yards in the district,
“ and carry my fowling-piece and rum
“ flask when I go a shooting, as the ne-
“ groe girls do in the West Indies. There
“ would be no harm in that, you know,
“ Sir Philip: nobody would dare to sus-
“ pect us of immorality, any more than
“ Miss Seward and the Vicar, or Hannah
“ Moore and the Bishop, or yourself and
“ any of the pretty rosy-cheeked cottagers
“ about Hitchfield common, and the neigh-
“ bourhood of Blackwood-Hall. D—e, if
“ I don’t propose it at the next anniver-
“ sary; and Jack English and I will get
“ elected vice-presidents.”

Sir Philip, despairing, perhaps, of bringing about a reformation of manners in his Lordship, or, for some other reason, not choosing to continue the conversation,

the subject soon gave place to some other phantom of imagination, which Lord Rivulet and his volatile companion could create at pleasure, and descant upon, with as much volubility as an auctioneer upon the colouring of a picture, or a young member of the Opposition on the introduction of a bill for increasing the tax on hounds and pointers.

Lord Rivulet had sent to London, in order to replenish his wardrobe, before he went to Mitford-Place; and he intreated Sir Philip to make that circumstance an excuse for his non-appearance, and not to say a word about the tan-yard: but Sir Philip would only promise a conditional silence on that head, provided his Lordship was not guilty of any extravagance during his visit at Mitford-Place, which my lord having agreed upon, they shook

hands, and it was left to Captain English to make the best excuse he could for his friend's absence.

Mrs. Burrows had caught a severe cold, and was otherwise so much indisposed, that the Captain was deprived of a very powerful auxiliary, and exposed to a very brisk attack from the Baronet on the subject of his misconduct, at least once every day. When they were on their journey to Mitford-Place, Sir Philip exhausted all his eloquence on the folly of a life of continual dissipation ; and it was in vain that his nephew pleaded the countenance and example of the great, the change of manners among the inhabitants of the country in general, and the impossibility of effecting a reform, unless it could be enforced, by consent of the nation at large.

The Baronet insisted, that the state

was corrupt; the politics and interests of the country ill understood; religion neglected; and that affectation had usurped the place of sincerity, and folly and prodigality were enthroned upon the ruins of honesty and prudence.

“ There is scarcely either honour or
“ virtue,” said Sir Philip, “ remaining in
“ the country. You have vulgar and il-
“ literate persons in some of the most
“ important offices; stage-players and
“ buffoons even in the councils of state,
“ and coxcombs among the heads of the
“ church.

“ Instead of choosing a minister on
“ account of his wisdom and experience,
“ you look to the extent of his connex-
“ ions, or the opulence of his family; to
“ his aptness for political intrigue, or the
“ ductility with which he may be brought

“ to fashion his opinions to the prevalent
“ follies of the times.

“ You bestow regiments of cavalry on
“ officers who can not ride on horseback,
“ and commit the care of your navy to
“ men who have scarcely ever seen a ship :
“ and, to complete the climax of absur-
“ dity and iniquity, encourage the profligate to defame the characters of the most
“ illustrious personages in the kingdom,
“ and thus set wide open a door, which
“ may be the inlet of the most direful
“ mischiefs ever experienced by the British people.

“ Spies and informers are rewarded ;
“ and you seem more disposed to multiply crimes for the purpose of inflicting
“ punishments, than to prevent them by
“ a wholesome and discreet discouragement of those who readily participate

“ in offences against the state, and then
“ greedily seek the wages of villainy, by
“ the conviction of their accomplices.
“ Nor is this enormous evil confined to
“ public affairs, but is gradually extending
“ to the transactions of private life, and
“ the ordinary intercourse between indi-
“ viduals : so that all confidence will soon
“ be lost, and the hand of every man will
“ be stretched out against his neighbour ;
“ unless a remedy can be found for the ap-
“ proaching mischief.

“ I tell you,” added Sir Philip emphati-
cally, “ that the whole country can not
“ produce an instance of pure disinterest-
“ ed generosity, devoid of some latent
“ spirit of meanness, or some selfish hope
“ of personal advantage or gratification !”

At this instant the pair of leaders which
drew Sir Philip's coach, started at a small

bundle in the middle of the road, by which so smart a check was given to the motion of the carriage, that the Baronet's harangu was interrupted.

One of the servants alighted to take up the bundle, and immediately perceived that it contained a beautiful infant. The fellow immediately brought it to the coach door. "Give me the child," said Jack English; "upon my soul, Sir, a beautiful infant;" addressing himself to Sir Philip. He took it into the coach, and the child opened a pair of fine blue eyes full in the face of the Baronet, who inquired if any person had been seen passing on the road?

The servants said that they had not observed any one; and the Baronet, therefore, desired that the postilions would re-

peat the inquiry at the next house they came to.

“ But what must be done with the
“ child, brother ? ” said Mrs. Burrows :
“ this is surely a most singular adventure.”

“ Done with it ? ” replied the Baronet,
“ Jack shall carry it to the next town, and
“ if we can not find out to whom it be-
“ longs, we must take care of it, to be
“ sure. *You would not have it christened*
“ *with the name of Plantagenet, and then*
“ *sent to a work-house, as a memento of*
“ *pride and meanness !* ”

The coach soon arrived at a small public-house, by the side of the road, but all the inquiries made there, respecting the child, were unavailing. It was dressed with neatness, but there, was no mark upon the linen, or any part of the child's clothes

which afforded any clue to facilitate the discovery of those to whom he belonged, or who had abandoned him.

“ Brother,” said Mrs. Burrows, “ do
“ you not think that it will be proper, to
“ give notice to the surveyors of the high-
“ way, or the parish-officers, or the ma-
“ gistrates, respecting the child? it is cer-
“ tainly a most glaring offence against na-
“ ture and duty, and it should be severely
“ punished.”

“ You must first catch the offender,” re-
plied the Baronet; “ besides, you seem to
“ forget that if there had been much
“ prospect of obtaining a provision for the
“ poor infant from the persons you men-
“ tion, it would have been laid at their
“ doors, and not left on the highway,
“ where the passenger who met with it,
“ might have been a travelling tinker,

“ destitute of the means of supporting
“ his own family. I tell you, sister, this
“ is one of the evils arising out of that
“ cursed system which I have been repro-
“ bating. No, my pretty babe,” added
the Baronet; placing the end of his fin-
ger in a large dimple on the infant’s chin,
who lay smiling on Mrs. Burrows’s arm,
“ you shall not be sent from the door of
“ the churchwarden to the overseer, a-
“ begging. Jack English will give some-
“ thing towards maintaining you; will
“ you not, Jack? Come! how much will
“ you allow me to withhold from your
“ allowance, for your share? There are
“ three of us here, and I think my Lord
“ Rivulet will be glad to make a fourth:
“ what do you say, Jack?”

“ A clear hundred, if you please, Sir,”
said the Captain, “ very chearfully.”

“Thou art a good fellow, Jack,” said the Baronet. “No, no; I was only in jest; but, to shew you how much I am pleased with your generosity, I will make you a present of a hundred to-morrow morning, or whenever you please.”

“I tell you what we will do, sister:—I believe it is a boy; is it not? If so, when he can talk, Parson Worth shall take him to the vicarage, and make him a good scholar, and I’ll warrant we will contrive some method of providing for him.”

Sir Philip was always a welcome guest at Mitford-Place, and was received by his friend Mr. Prendergrant with his usual kindness.

The Baronet carried the child, in his arms, into the parlour, and presented him

to the company, who were not more struck by the uncommon beauty of the infant, than the uncommon benevolence of his protector.

“ I must have him taken care of,” said Sir Philip ; “ and, my Lady O’Shannon, if “ your nursery-maids have not too much “ business upon their hands, I shall make “ no apology for requesting that they will “ take him in hand, during our stay.”

Lady O’Shannon, who was the eldest daughter of Mr. Prendergrant, gave an immediate consent ; and the child was consigned to the nursery with her ladyship’s own children.

The Baronet afterwards desired his sister to give the necessary directions for purchasing every thing requisite for clothing. Mrs. Burrows observed : “ Decent, I “ suppose, brother, but not fine ?”

“ Just as if it were your own, or mine,” replied Sir Philip. “ Do not let us disgrace ourselves. All the world will believe, or pretend to believe, that he is either yours, mine, or Jack’s.”

“ I hope not, brother,” rejoined the old lady.—“And I care not,” said the Captain. “ If such an accident should happen, I know what I have to do. I will just bundle up the little fellow, and lay him in my uncle’s way, and I shall not care a fig what the world may say about it.”

“ Jack!” said Sir Philip, “ your heart would not suffer you to do any such thing. I know it by my own feelings: none, but the thoroughly vicious, can totally divest themselves of compassion: pride, or meanness, or hypocrisy may sometimes pretend that this or that

“ person, though never so much distress-
“ ed, has no pity from them. Thank
“ heaven, it is generally false. *A man’s*
“ *meanness or avarice, or pride or weak-*
“ *ness may occasion him to withhold his*
“ *hand from distributing the means of*
“ *comfort to others, but the sentiment of*
“ *pity is one of Nature’s own productions,*
“ *and he must be a wretch, indeed, who*
“ *dares disclaim it.* It is fixed and rooted
“ in the mind like courage or timidity,
“ and Providence is never niggardly in
“ her gifts of the tender sympathies,
“ however unwilling some men are to
“ let them have fair play.”

“ Brother!” said Mrs. Burrows, “ you
“ improve very much ; and, upon my
“ word, I begin to entertain a very good
“ opinion of you !”

Sir Philip smiled, and took the hint

that he had said enough.—The truth was, that Mrs. Burrows well knew that the character of Dean Chaloner, who had married the youngest daughter of Mr. Prendergrant, was exactly such an one, as that at which her brother's speech excellently, but, as far as related to the Dean, unintentionally, glanced. He was one of those pious persons, who, if he had any charity, covered it with such a veil of secrecy, that no one ever discovered it: and yet maintained a reputation for *doing a great deal of good*. If he were applied to, in order to add to a subscription in favour of some unfortunate family, he made so many inquiries into all the circumstances of their distress, and investigated the proceedings of their former lives by such a careful scrutiny, that it was ten to one but he discovered some sufficient cause for

withholding his bounty; whilst others, less fastidious, having given more cheerfully, and not perceiving any instructions in the Gospel for such a close examination, before they distributed their superfluities to the relief of the needy, accomplished the desired object: and the Dean never failed, on such occasions, to desire that it might not be known that he had declined giving his assistance, lest, (*good man!*) it might be injurious to the future interests of the suppliant. Mrs. Burrows, therefore, gave the before-mentioned hint to Sir Philip, lest the very reverend gentleman should think that the Baronet had usurped the privilege of the priesthood, and was preaching *at him*.

Lord O'Shannon was expected at Mitford-Place in a few days; and his birth-day was to be celebrated there with great splen-

dour. He was a young nobleman of great worth and ability, of an excellent disposition, and perfectly accomplished. He had endeared himself equally to his friends and associates by the urbanity of his manners and unaffected deportment; and to the inferior classes of his countrymen, by his generosity, and a kind and incessant solicitude to promote their comfort and happiness.

The object of his journey to Ireland had been, for the purpose of endeavouring to reconcile the peasantry in the neighbourhood of his estates, to the Act of Union, to convince them of the inutility and danger of opposing the laws, and to reconcile them to a peaceable acquiescence in the measures which government had thought proper to adopt.

His lordship was of opinion, that it was

both an unfair and impolitic mode of arguing, to say, that the facilities of emigration would console those who were discontented ; and he thought that the benefits to be expected from the change which with so much difficulty had been brought about, would be, in a great measure, counterbalanced, if a diminution of the population of the country should be the effect of it, so long as the waste lands were permitted to remain unoccupied ; especially if those who forsook their native country through disgust or necessity, should only add, as it was most probable they would do, to the already crowded population of the capital of the sister kingdom.

With these sentiments he considered it to be his duty to exert all his influence in settling the minds of the inhabitants of the county of Leitrim ; and it afforded

him the sincerest satisfaction to find, that his endeavours were attended with success.

The peasantry and labourers in the vicinity of his estate knew his lordship to be a beneficent patron, who cherished as much solicitude for their interests as for his own; and, as there is no country in the world more capable of a sincere and fervent attachment, than our western brethren, they flocked around him, wherever he went, with the most anxious and affectionate regard.

At length, the day fixed for his departure arrived; there was scarcely a dry eye in the neighbourhood of Port-Rose, and his lordship set sail for England, amidst the prayers and blessings of hundreds.

Lady O'Shannon, who, with her three children, had been at her father's seat ever since the departure of her lord for

Ireland, received the pleasing intelligence of his having embarked in safety, and had every reason to expect his arrival before the end of the month ; on the last day of which it was therefore resolved to celebrate the anniversary of his birth.

Mr. Prendergrant was very earnest in his intreaties that Sir Philip English and his family would remain at Mitford-Place to partake of the intended festivities ; and Lady O'Shannon, who was a great favourite of Mrs. Burrows, in consequence of being a great reader, having exerted her influence in that quarter, the Baronet agreed to prolong his visit.

Captain English delivered the message with which he had been entrusted by his friend Lord Rivulet ; and both the Dean and Mr. Prendergrant joined in lamenting that a young man, so happy in his fortunes

and connexions, should have rendered himself so notorious by his folly and extravagance : but it did not escape the penetration of Mrs. Burrows, that on this, and other occasions, when his Lordship's name was mentioned, Mrs. Chaloner not only seemed averse from having any freedoms taken with his character, but actually defended him, with an uncommon degree of warmth and partiality.

Several days had now elapsed, but Lord Rivulet did not appear. The Captain expressed some surprise at his not having fulfilled his promise ; but the company in general seemed so well pleased with each other, that no particular anxiety was manifested by any one at the disappointment.

However, one evening, rather late, a servant arrived with a message for his

Lordship, from a distant relation, who had been requested to address him at Mr. Prendergrant's.

This relative was an old gentleman who vegetated on the borders of Wiltshire, where he had a large estate, to which Lord Rivulet had some pretensions after his decease.

Mr. Lamprey was the first cousin of his Lordship's mother, who was a great favourite of the old man, and to whom it was thought that he had bequeathed the bulk of his fortune.

On her decease, which had happened about four years before, Lord Rivulet had been extremely regular in his attendance at Woodbury-farm : paid two visits there every year ; behaved with the greatest circumspection, and always avoided even the bare mention of expence : for Mr.

Lamprey, though not quite so complete a miser as old Elwes, was yet, in disposition, so nearly allied to him, that in order to retain his good opinion, it was absolutely necessary to have at least the extrinsic appearance of prudence and œconomy.

Rivulet used to acknowledge to his familiar acquaintances, that he did great violence to his feelings, by endeavouring to sustain a character so opposite to his own:—but what will not the love of money effect?

Such was the precaution of his Lordship, amidst all his mad pranks, to stand well with old Lamprey, that he never went a journey without writing to Mrs. Favourite, the housekeeper, to inclose his address, in case any thing should happen.

The message which the servant had brought from Woodbury, seemed to be of importance, for it was, that Mr. Lamprey had; for several days previous, exhibited symptoms of mental derangement, talked very incoherently, and could scarcely be prevailed upon, not to set out for London; whither, he said, he must go, to settle some business at the Bank of England.

Mrs. Favourite, justly apprehending that much mischief might be the result of such a journey, had actually locked the doors: but, before she proceeded to farther extremities, was desirous of giving notice to Lord Rivulet, that his presence at the farm was very desirable, before any other of Mr. Lamprey's relations could get intelligence of his condition.

With this Mrs. Favourite, my Lord had continued to maintain a good correspondence ; and while they mutually acted as spies on each other, they were assiduous in preventing the approach of the common enemy ;—for in that light they considered a certain nobleman, who was equally near in blood, but not quite so attentive to Mr. Lamprey, as was Lord Rivulet.

Mr. Prendergrant directed the servant to take the road for Ryegate, where it was probable that he might hear of his Lordship, for there seemed to be nothing but uncertainty in waiting for him at Mitford-Place.

Indeed, he might have waited there in vain ; for, on his arrival at the inn where Sir Philip English had left Lord Rivulet, the landlord informed him, that just as

his Lordship was setting out for Mitford-Place, the arrival of two young gentlemen, who were going to Windsor, diverted him from his purpose, and his Lordship agreed to make a third in their post-chaise ; and sent his horses to town.

This intelligence, the servant delivered to Mr. Prendergrant on his return to Woodbury-farm ; having given up the chase of his lordship, as a hopeless pursuit.

The company at Mitford-Place were now become in some degree anxious respecting Lord O'Shannon: the wind had been favourable ; and, as his Lordship had proposed landing at Bristol, every post was expected to bring intelligence of his arrival.

The birth-day was near at hand, the preparations for celebrating it, were com-

pleted, and a select company had been invited to Mitford-Place.

It became a question whether the entertainment should be deferred on account of his Lordship's absence: but there being yet some chance that he might arrive in time, and perhaps might have proceeded from Bristol immediately after his landing, without waiting to give intelligence of his arrival there Mr. Prendergrant, joined by Sir Philip English, overruled the sentiments of the rest of the party, and it was agreed not to disappoint the company.

The morning was ushered in, by ringing the bells of the neighbouring villages; and the delivery of the letters by the post was looked for, with uncommon anxiety.

One letter only was brought, directed to Mr. Prendergrant. He opened it

it inconsiderately, while Lady O'Shannon looked earnestly in his face, as if for intelligence respecting her beloved lord.

It was from Penzance in Cornwall. The vessel in which Lord O'Shannon had sailed, was wrecked off the point of the Lizard, and his Lordship, with five of the passengers, perished !

Mr. Prendergrant, unable to conceal his emotions, attempted to retire from the room. His daughter observing the sudden change of his countenance, and anticipating some dreadful accident, seized the letter, and having thrown her eye over it, fell senseless on the floor.

It would be in vain to attempt a description of the scene, which followed. The loss of an affectionate husband, rendered so peculiarly afflicting by the time and manner of it, and the impossibility

of alleviating such poignant grief, by the limited consolations which friendship can bestow, struck dumb every one who beheld the pale and lifeless form of Lady O'Shannon, prostrate at the feet of her venerable father; while the humane and benevolent Sir Philip English and his sister were endeavouring to find some source of comfort for their afflicted friends.

Description is idle ; and language far too feeble, to embody the thoughts which fill the mind on such occasions. Let us, therefore, draw a veil over the melancholy scene.

CHAPTER XI.

SIR Philip English and his sister remained with their friends at Mitford Place, until the poignancy of Lady O'Shannon's grief had yielded to calmer, though scarcely less distressing, emotions. Nor would the Baronet be satisfied until he had obtained a distinct promise, that so soon as the Dean and Mrs. Chaloner were gone, Lady O'Shannon and her family would accompany her father to Blackwood-Hall, and remain there, for a few weeks.

When Sir Philip English was about to leave Mitford-Place, "Do you intend, " brother," said Mrs. Burrows, " that " the child should remain here ?"

“Faith,” said the Baronet, “I never
“once thought of the boy:—do, Jack, step
“and look for him.” Every thing being
at length ready, they proceeded towards
Blackwood.

The servants seemed very much astonished to see Sir Philip with an infant in his arms ; and still more so, when he gave directions that a nurse should be hired immediately, and the nursery, which had never been used for forty or fifty years, fitted up for the reception of the infant.

Mr. Worth having been apprised of the return of the family to Blackwood-Hall, came to pay his respects ; and was received with much kindness. “This, Sir,” said the Baronet, “is my nephew, Captain
“John English, who will be much honoured,
“and I hope much benefited, by

“ an acquaintance with a gentleman of
“ your learning and worth.”

“ That he has been already, Sir,” interrupted Jack ; “ for Mr. Worth and I
“ are old acquaintances, but not under
“ the same name.”

“ Hey day ! what enigma next ? ” said the Baronet :—“ Mr. Worth did you ever
“ see this wild fellow before ? ”

“ Indeed I have, Sir Philip ;—I had
“ the pleasure of passing many agreeable
“ hours with this gentleman, last winter ;
“ but I little thought of meeting with
“ him here, and in the character of your
“ nephew.”

“ My dear Sir,” said the Captain, addressing his uncle, “ you must excuse any
“ farther explanation, at present, than
“ that I passed by another name, for a
“ few weeks, last winter ; that, like the

“ Spectator and other great men, I might
“ have the better opportunity of making
“ remarks upon the follies of the world ;”
giving a significant nod to Mr. Worth :—
“ and, in the course of my peregrina-
“ tions, met with this gentleman, to whom
“ I am under great obligations, which I
“ have not, at present, the means to re-
“ pay.”

“ Then why the devil did you not let
“ me know it before ?” said Sir Philip.
“ How mean and miserable must I have
“ appeared in the eyes of this worthy gen-
“ tleman, if he had known that I was un-
“ fortunately your uncle, when I never
“ so much as hinted at the kindness he
“ had bestowed upon you. I am really
“ very angry, Jack ; and I desire you will
“ never be guilty of the like again. Pray,

“ Mr. Worth, how much might the sum
“ be ? ”

The parson looked surprised ; and Sir Philip repeating his question :—“ Heaven
“ bless you both,” said Mrs. Burrows,
“ between uncle and nephew, you are
“ enough to bewilder not only Mr. Worth,
“ but Erasmus himself, or even Friar Ba-
“ con. Jack does not mean that he owes
“ money to Mr. Worth ; his obligations,
“ as I take it, are of another kind, bro-
“ ther ; probably of a literary nature.”

“ Zounds ! ” said Sir Philip, “ how
“ should I know that ? He spoke so ambi-
“ guously that it was almost impossible
“ for me not to make a mistake.”

Whilst Mrs. Burrows and Sir Philip were arguing this point with their wonted skill, English whispered a word in the ear

of Mr. Worth, who as soon as a cessation of Mrs. Burrows's remarks gave him an opportunity, begged pardon of the Baronet; assured him that what his nephew considered an obligation, had afforded himself great satisfaction and pleasure; as it consisted in an interchange of sentiments on literary subjects; and that there never had been any pecuniary transaction between them. He would also have taken upon himself, at least, a share of the mistake which had arisen; but Mrs. Burrows again interposed, with so much warmth, that Mr. Worth was silenced by authority, and Sir Philip adjudged by his sister, to be wholly entitled to the blunder which had been made.

English was very anxious to see the Countess, and requested his uncle's per-

mission to pay a visit at Boneham-Lodge, where, he supposed, that she still remained.

The Baronet consented, and desired Jack to engage her ladyship with Colonel Courtly and any other friends who might be staying at his house, to dine at Blackwood-Hall on an early day; and then, telling him to beware of a tandem and stinging-nettles, bade him go about his business.

The Captain occasioned a great deal of mirth at the expence of himself and his friend Lord Rivulet, by the relation of a variety of their adventures, jointly and severally; and he took care not to omit the history of the fox-chase, and the visit of Doctor Destiny; to which, in a very droll and humourous manner, he gave as much colouring, respectively, as they were capable of sustaining.

When the Countess heard of the foundling, she immediately indited a letter to Sir Philip, in which, after wishing him joy of the increase of his family, she offered herself to stand god-mother to the infant, if he had not yet been christened: and accepted the Baronet's invitation for the next Wednesday.

When Sir Philip read the letter,—
“ There is many a true word spoken in
“ jest,” said he: “ sister, what do you
“ think of a christening? You know we
“ are not certain that this poor child
“ hath ever had a name; that is a Chris-
“ tian's name, given to him. The Coun-
“ tess of B—— is disposed to be jocular,
“ and offers herself for a godmother. I
“ have a great mind to take her at her
“ word. Let me see, you will be the

“ other ; there must be two godmothers
“ for a boy, I think !”

Mrs. Burrows told him he was wrong ; that there must be two *godfathers* ; but the Baronet boldly combated her opinion, got the book of Common Prayer, and at last referred the question to Mr. Worth, who decided in favour of the lady.

The Baronet named almost every person of his acquaintance before he could determine upon one of whom he was disposed to ask such a favour : when it occurred to him that old Admiral Ortolan would be glad to be of the party on such an occasion ; and, in all probability, would increase the mirth of it.

“ If poor Prendergrant had not met
“ with such a calamity ” said Sir Philip, with a sigh, “ he should have been the
“ man.”

The affair being so far settled, Sir Philip took his horse the next morning, in order to call upon Admiral Ortolan, and give him a personal invitation.

At that season he was usually at a small villa, about six miles from Blackwood; and the Baronet, on his arrival there, perceiving the door open, and having no doubt of meeting with his old acquaintance, very deliberately walked into the parlour, and took a seat.

A servant looking in, Sir Philip inquired of him, if his master was at home, and being answered in the affirmative—"Let him know," said the Baronet, "that Sir Philip English is here."

The man returned in a few minutes, and said that his master was particularly engaged then, but would be with Sir Philip in a few minutes.

“ Tell your master,” said the Baronet,
“ that I want to see him on particular
“ business.”

Soon afterwards a prim looking quaker entered the room, who, twirling his thumbs, marched up to Sir Philip and demanded— “ Friend, didst thou send
“ a message to me?” “ Not I, indeed,
said the Baronet: “ I am waiting here
“ for Admiral Ortolan.”

“ Dost thou expect him here soon,
“ Friend ?” said the quaker.

“ I thought he would have been with
“ me before this time,” replied Sir Philip.

The quaker walked up and down, looked out of the window, and at last, again broke silence :—“ I think thy
“ name is English.”

“ The same, at your service,” said the

Baronet, (who all the time supposed that the quaker was also waiting for the Admiral), “ I am glad to see thee,” said the quaker ; “ I like thy principles and thy
“ independent character. I shall be glad
“ if thou wilt tarry, and eat bread with
“ me.”

“ Pray, Sir,” said Sir Philip, who, on such occasions, always liked to come to the point as soon as possible, for it was too much like one of his own invitations to be wholly disregarded : “ Pray,
“ Sir, do you live in this neighbour-
“ hood ?”

“ Verily, friend,” rejoined the quaker,
“ even in this tabernacle.”

“ Why,” said the Baronet, “ is not
“ this Admiral Ortolan’s house ?” (for he began to imagine that he had made a similar mistake to his friend Counsellor

Collis who often mistook his neighbour's house for his own)—“ True, neighbour ;
“ he hath in him the inheritance, but the
“ possession abideth in Nicholas Juxon,
“ thy friend, here present.”

“ Good Sir,” said the Baronet, “ I ask
“ pardon ; I am very sorry for the mis-
“ take : I do not know how it happened ;
“ but, pray, can you inform me where
“ the Admiral may be found?”

“ He abideth at his ancient dwelling-
“ place, by the side of the great western
“ road,” said the quaker, “ near the
“ Steeple-house : peradventure, thou
“ mayest find him there.”

Sir Philip again apologized, and took leave, not without repaying friend Juxon's invitation by another to Blackwood ; to which the quaker replied : “ Neighbour,
“ I thank thee ; I take it kind of thee ;

“ thou art one of the mighty ones of the
“ land, and I am only a plain man ; but
“ I like thy principles and thy spirit ;
“ and, peradventure, I will give thee a
“ call.

“ Come to-morrow,” said the Baronet ;
“ five o’clock is my hour. It is Liberty-
“ Hall at Blackwood,”

“ I thank thee, friend,” said the
quaker ; “ so, fare thee well ;” and Sir
Philip rode home, and greatly amused
Mrs. Burrows and Mr. Worth, with an
account of his visit.

Still Sir Philip was as much at a loss
as ever, for a sponsor for the child ; till
at last, recollecting Counsellor Collis, he
requested, as a particular favour, that
Mr. Worth would step into his coach,
and, without informing the Counsellor of
the nature of the business, request that

he would return with him to Blackwood-Hall immediately: "We shall then be sure of Brief," said Sir Philip, "or else he will forget his appointment."

Mr. Worth found the Counsellor at home, and with some difficulty drew him from his study; for, although he expressed the utmost readiness to oblige Sir Philip English, he was so long before he could direct his attention from some abstruse point of law, upon which one of the judges had sent to consult him, that Mr. Worth began to think he must return without him.

At last, however, (having previously secured his hat, which was of leather, by tying it on with a pocket handkerchief), Collis got into the coach, and proceeded towards Blackwood-Hall.

As they rode along, the Counsellor

diverted Mr. Worth, with many entertaining anecdotes of some of his professional brethren, and a few which were not less interesting, of himself; but the parson having unluckily suggested a question relative to impropriations, Collis filled up the remainder of the journey with an account of the laws relative to ecclesiastical benefices, tithes, lay-vicarages and peculiars.

Mr. Worth was usually visited with a fit of the gout, at least once every year; and it so happened, that this unwelcome guest announced his arrival, about two o'clock in the morning of that day on which the Baronet had proposed to give a name to the little foundling.

As Mr. Worth was to have performed the ceremony, it became necessary to find

a substitute, in consequence of his indisposition.

The parson of the parish was almost the only person in the neighbourhood with whom Sir Philip English was not on visiting terms: nor was this the fault of the Baronet, who had made every overture towards the establishment of civility and harmony between them, which affability and good nature could suggest, but without effect.

The parson was a Welshman; and, unlike almost all his countrymen, who are proverbially fond of hospitality, sociable and convivial, the vicar was a gloomy, dissatisfied mortal, who neither would dispense the good things, which had been bestowed upon him, to others, nor knew how to enjoy them himself.

His time—that part of it which was not occupied by his clerical functions (which was but a small portion of it, for he used to boast that he could always read prayers and preach on a Sunday morning, and finish the duties of the church, including the voluntary, in less than *an hour*),—was usually divided between the coffee-house, where he commonly got possession of two or three newspapers at a time, and his own fire-side, where his chief employment was to roast potatoes for his supper, and prepare hot elder wine, in a particular manner, which he said, had been taught him, by the late Duke of Leeds.

It was remarkable, that although there was good store of gentlemen's families in the neighbourhood, he was the only clergyman in the place: so that although

it has been said, that there is seldom any difficulty in procuring *grace to be said in form*, for those who have plenty of roast beef and port-wine, for the use of the chaplain; the contrary was sometimes the case in the neighbourhood of Blackwood-Hall.

Whilst Mr. Worth was endeavouring to fix upon some reverend divine to whom he might apply, on the present occasion, chance, to use the expression of Sir Philip English, turned up a favourable card, when skill was unavailing.

Sir Philip was returning from his morning walk, and near his own mansion, when he met with two gentlemen in shooting jackets, followed by a couple of brace of pointers.

Judging from the appearance of one of them, that he might *probably* be a clergy-

man, Sir Philip was the more inclined to enter into conversation with them : and having done so, soon found that he was right in his conjecture. He also made another discovery, which he thought equally important,—namely, that they were strangers in that part of the country, and had agreed to pass through it, by what might be called a sporting tour.

The Baronet was no sooner informed of this circumstance, than he desired to have an opportunity of giving them a more favourable opinion of the country, than from the appearance of their nets, they were likely to form of it ; and begged to have the honour of their company to dinner—observing, that he had also beds, at their service.

The strangers made all proper acknowledgments, and accepted the offer :—but

with very inadequate notions of the rank and fortune of the person who gave the invitation; for, as Sir Philip wore a slouched hat, and an old light grey coat, which completely hid his interior garments, and walked with a long paddle (having been to inspect his farm, when he met with the sportsmen), they supposed him to be, what is usually termed a gentleman farmer; and laid their account with being hospitably entertained; but had no idea of being introduced into a large and elegant party.

Some rain had fallen, and it was become dirty; "You will excuse my taking you
" into the house by the nearest way," said Sir Philip, "I know that sportsmen
" do not like ceremony:" and immediately opening a private door, conducted them through the court-yard, where calling

to one of his grooms, he gave him charge of the pointers, and desired him to come to the gentlemen and receive their instructions, how and when he should feed the dogs.

As they passed through a long passage into the house, "A noble old hall you have here, 'Squire," said one of the sportsmen. "Such as it is, gentlemen," replied the Baronet, "you are welcome to it."

The appearance of three or four servants in a livery rather gaudy, and the opening of a pair of folding doors into a handsome saloon, very much astonished the strangers, who, when they heard their host addressed by the title of Sir Philip, began to make many apologies for their appearance at his table, in such a dress.

"Gentlemen," said Sir Philip, with true

urbanity, “ if my servants can render
“ you in any respect more comfortable,
“ by any assistance which they can give
“ you, pray command them, as your own.
“ I am always perfectly indifferent to the
“ dress of my friends.”

One of the strangers, in the course of the conversation, having said that he knew not how he should be able to make any return for such obliging attentions :—
“ I will tell you,” said Sir Philip ; “ you
“ must know, that although I am what is
“ called an old batchelor, I happened
“ lately to find a child, on the turnpike-
“ road, and I intend to have it christened
“ to-day. Now the clergyman who was
“ to have officiated, is so ill with the gout
“ as to be unable to attend ; therefore, if
“ you, Sir, will have the goodness, for I
“ perceive you are a clergyman, to supply

“ the place of Mr. Worth, I shall think
“ myself under a great obligation to you,
“ and very fortunate besides, in having
“ met with you so opportunely.”

“ With the greatest pleasure, Sir,” replied the parson, “ though my habiliments are but ill-adapted to the occasion.”

Here Sir Philip left the strangers, to change his own dress, and to inform Mr. Worth of the accident by which he had met with a clergyman. “ A very pleasant sensible man, I can assure you, Mr. Worth ;” said the Baronet, “ I wish you could have been with us:—his name is Roberts ; he is a Cambridge man, I understand.”

Mr. Worth immediately recollected a college acquaintance of the same name, and begged to see him, observing, that if

he should happen to be mistaken, as the gentleman had kindly undertaken to officiate in his stead, it would be easy to find an excuse for sending for him, by returning thanks on account of the trouble he was about to give him, in baptizing the child.

Mr. Roberts had a glimpse of the principal apartments, as he went up stairs to visit his brother clergyman, and they were altogether so much more splendid than he imagined, on entering the house, that he began to feel quite uncomfortable, both on his own account, and that of his friend Mr. O'Donnell, that they had accepted the Baronet's invitation ; and particularly, as he understood that a numerous company was expected.

Worth and Roberts soon recognized each other ; and Sir Philip having already

explained, that he had engaged Mr. Roberts to officiate at the christening, Mr. Worth desired that he would try on a suit of his clothes,—which fitted him exactly; and he then made a very decent-looking clergyman, having nothing of the sportsman remaining.

Thus equipped, he returned to his companion, who started on his approach; but, being informed of the reason of this metamorphosis, was very earnest to change his own clothes also.

“ Sir Philip English seems so very affable and pleasant,” said Roberts, “ that I do not mind asking him:” and, accordingly, mentioned the wishes of his friend to the valet, who said, that he was sure his master would most readily lend him his whole wardrobe, “ but, indeed, “ Sir,” said he, “ they will neither fit

“ you, nor are fit for you ; for they are
“ all old-fashioned ; and most of them,
“ that are good for any thing, are laced
“ or embroidered ; but Sir Philip’s ne-
“ phew, Captain English, has some clothes
“ here, and I will furnish you with a suit
“ of them in a moment.”

They were accordingly procured ; and when Mr. O’Donnell was dressed, the servant conducted him to the drawing-room, where the company had begun to assemble.

Right glad was Mr. O’Donnell to have been accommodated with a suit of Captain English’s, when he perceived himself in a magnificent apartment crowded with company, for the most part elegantly dressed ; and more particularly when the stately Mrs. Burrows entered the room most gorgeously arrayed, and attended by her bro-

ther, who, that he might do honour to the company and the occasion, wore a suit of pompadour velvet richly embroidered.

Sir Philip was engaged in shaking hands with every one, and welcoming his guests in the usual friendly manner; and Sir William de la Roche observing that Mr. O'Donnell was a stranger, and had not been introduced to Mrs. Burrows, presented him to that lady, who had just interchanged the compliments of the day, and observed how fortunate it was that her brother had met with his friend, Mr. Roberts, that morning, as Mr. Worth was entirely unable to quit his bed;—when Sir Philip coming up, and not at all recollecting Mr. O'Donnell, in his altered dress, requested Sir William de la Roche to present him to his friend;—which produced

a good deal of laughing, but did not discompose the good-humoured Baronet.

At length Colonel Courtly arrived with the party from Boneham-Lodge, and amongst them Captain English.

Sir Philip acquainted the Countess that, in pursuance of her ladyship's hint, he now claimed the fulfilment of her promise, to give a name to the foundling.

Her ladyship, with the most fascinating smile in the world, assured the Baronet that she was never more in earnest, than in the offer she had made : and Colonel Courtly asked Sir Philip if he should make one among them.

The Baronet thanked the Colonel for his politeness, but observed, that he could not take so great a liberty as to ask such a favour of him ; and had, therefore al-

ready engaged his old friend Counsellor Collis.

Every thing being prepared, the company proceeded to the saloon, where the ceremony was to be performed.

From the nature of his office, on this occasion, Counsellor Collis was stationed nearly opposite the officiating clergyman, who, not having been previously informed of the sex of the child, and the knowledge of that circumstance being a necessary preliminary to the performance of the ceremony, inquired of the Counsellor, in a low voice, whether it was a boy or a girl.

Collis, whose thoughts were entirely abstracted from the ceremonial, on being addressed by a person in a gown and band, and with a book open before him, was removed in a moment, that is in idea, from Blackwood to Westminster-Hall, and

supposing himself addressed by the Chancellor or one of the Judges, began in his usual manner, with the most sententious gravity :—

“ My Lord, I—humbly—thank—your
“ —Lordship,—for—the—oppor - tunity
“ —thus—afford - ed—me—of—detailing
“ —to—your—Lord - ship—and - this—
“ au-dience,———” here he was interrupted by Sir Philip—“ Collis! Collis!
“ you forget yourself!”—and so, indeed, he did.

The clergyman having received the information he desired, and recovered a little from the surprise occasioned by the Counsellor's harangue, proceeded in the service, without further interruption ; and the little foundling received the names of *Philip Philip* ; for, as the Baronet observed, if he never acquired a third name,

he had as many as one half of his countrymen, and if he did, he might throw away the duplicate.

When the company were leaving the saloon, "Counsellor," said Colonel Courtly, "I heartily wish they would have let you gone on. I dares to say, we should have had an incomparable speech; pray, what might you be thinking of at the time,—umph! Counsellor?"

"I was thinking of a very abstruse case, Colonel," replied Collis, "which has been argued again and again, and is not likely to be soon disposed of. It was a question relative to some property, and a short bill was filed, which in the event led to a dispute which has now been eight and fifty years before

“ the court, and every one of the parties
“ originally concerned, attornies as well
“ as clients, are dead.”

“ And this here is what you call a
“ *short* bill, is it, Counsellor? Umph?”

“ I was going,” said Collis, “ to have
“ argued,”—but the dinner being ready
his mouth was again stopped,—and not
disagreeably.

Soon after dinner, Admiral Ortolan made his appearance. The Admiral having met with his tenant the quaker, and being informed by him of the visit which Sir Philip had paid to Rufus-Cottage, had taken a ride over to Blackwood, to inquire what was that *particular business*, of which Sir Philip had spoken; but without any expectation of meeting with so much company.

However, as most of the party were well known to him, the Admiral joined them, without ceremony.

The old man had of late made himself very unpopular, by his rigid and vigilant attention to the game laws; and the infliction of the penalties incurred by those who trespassed upon his manors. It was a subject always uppermost in his mind, and he had not been long in the room before he began to complain of the insults to which he was continually exposed, in consequence of endeavouring to maintain, what he called, his rights.

He happened to be seated near Counsellor Collis, and made an appeal to him on the subject; remarking, that he had been treated very unhandsomely that morning. That he had met with two poachers, one of whom shot a hare, al-

most before his face, and on his coming up, and demanding it, the Admiral said, that the fellow pulled a rabbit out of his bag, and told him that if he wanted his dinner he was welcome to eat that with the skin on, if he liked, for it was the only thing he had found worth shooting during the whole day.

“ I warned them off the manors,” said the Admiral; “ and one of them told me I had *no manners*.”

Sir Philip laughed very heartily, and was joined by most of the company.

“ Then I desired to see his certificate ;
“ and he demanded mine.”

“ That he had a right to do, if you had
“ your gun ;” said the Counsellor.

“ I had left the certificate at home :”
added Ortolan.

“ You was in the wrong to do so,”

said the Counsellor, “ the lord of a
“ manor ought to carry not only his li-
“ cense, but the title-deeds of his estate
“ about him, when he goes a shooting.”

“ The devil he ought,” said the Ad-
miral: “ Sir Philip English and Colonel
“ Courtly would find it a d—d diffi-
“ cult matter to carry their parchments,
“ I believe.”

“ They might have an abstract made ;
“ let me see,” said the Counsellor, “ two
“ hundred folios, aye : aye : they might
“ have an abstract made, Admiral.”

“ Well, as I was telling you,” con-
tinued Ortolan, “ after demanding his
“ certificate, I desired him to tell me
“ his name.”

“ He had no business to tell you that,”
said Collis : “ but you should have told
“ him whom you were.”

“ Have patience, Counsellor, a moment,” replied the Admiral; I did tell him. “ I am Admiral Ortolan, the lord of this manor.”—“ You are no such person,” said the spokesman, “ I know the Admiral very well, he is a gentleman, and would not behave as you do; you look more like a poaching lawyer, or a parson, than an Admiral.”

“ Are you certain that he said a lawyer?” said Collis.

The company laughed: but from different motives,—some on account of the rising wrath of the Admiral; others from observing the eagerness with which the Counsellor entered into the case; and a third party, amongst whom were Colonel Courtly, Sir Philip English and his nephew, who had received a private hint,

that the supposed poachers were then and there present ; in the persons of Mr. O'Donnell, and Mr. Roberts, the clergyman.

“ Counsellor,” said the Admiral, “ I will make a certificate that he did.”

“ An *affidavit*, you mean,” said the Counsellor ; “ and if an indictment should be preferred, that will be very necessary :—have you any witnesses ?”

“ Devil take me if I know what I have, or what I say, you interrupt me so perpetually. I tell you that a violent altercation took place, and I *jibbed* them a little of the sailors’ *slang* ; but I could not convince them, that I was the lord of the manor. Just then I happened to see the quaker, who now rents my cottage, and I was foolish enough to say—here comes one who will

“ let your know whether I am Admiral
“ Ortolan or not, at the first word.”——
“ “ He does not, for a guinea,” says the
“ young rascal! “ Done,” said I, “ you
“ “ impudent young dog; d—me, but I
“ “ wish I had your precious soul on board
“ “ the Princess Royal.”— “ Fye upon
“ “ you! wicked old man;” said the pro-
“ voking imp. Well up comes stiff-rump.”

“ “ Who is he ?” said the Counsellor,
very innocently. “ Why, d—n it, the
“ quaker.” “ Friend,” says the fellow,
“ with as much grimace as harlequin on
“ the stage, “ is this man, Admiral Or-
“ “ tolan ?”

“ “ *Why dost thou wish to know ?*”
“ quoth the stupid old fool,—and so I
“ lost my bet; and not being able to
“ make any thing of the fellow, I threw
“ the guinea on the ground, and followed

“ Juxon as fast as I could, to give him a
“ jobation.”

“ I do not see, ” said Collis, who sate
by, amidst the reiterated shouts and
laughter of the company, without the
discomposure of a muscle: “ I do not
“ see that any action will lie, in this
“ case; you say you do not know the
“ names of the parties !”

“ How the devil should I know their
“ names ?” said the Admiral, “ did you
“ not say, they were not obliged to tell
“ them ?”

“ They are not,” replied the Counsel-
lor, “ unless before a court of justice ;
“ nor even there, can a man always be
“ compelled to tell his name ; for I re-
“ member having been examined as a
“ witness myself before lord chief justice
“ Mansfield, and I had taken great pains

“ to make up my mind what I should
“ say. Well, gentlemen, I went into
“ court, dressed in my robes and wig,
“ and with a handful of notes and re-
“ ferences to assist my memory if ne-
“ cessary. Up starts a boy of a barrister,
“ and began: “ Pray, Sir, what is your
“ “ name?”—It may be ridiculous to con-
“ fess it, but not having at all expected
“ such a question, I could not possibly
“ recollect my name, at the time, and
“ stood hesitating for an answer; when
“ the chief justice, with whom I was
“ well acquainted, kindly prompted me,
“ “ Brother *Collis*, brother *Collis*, the
“ “ gentleman asks your name!” I still re-
“ mained silent, and probably should
“ not have been able to have told him,
“ until this time, if some one had not
“ answered for me, and set the whole

“ court in a roar, as I have done the com-
“ pany by relating the circumstance. So
“ that you see, Admiral, a man can not
“ always be compelled to tell his name,
“ even before a court: much less in a
“ field, and with his gun in his hand.”

“ I would bet twenty guineas,” said
Jack English, “ that the Admiral, al-
“ though so positive about the poachers,
“ as he calls them, would not know either
“ of them, if he were to meet with them
“ again to-morrow. I pretty well guess
“ who they were ; what say you, Admiral,
“ will you take the bet ?—or I will double
“ it, and lay that one of the men you
“ saw, was a parson.”

“ I will lay you a rump and dozen,
“ that I do know them when I see them,
“ and that neither of them was a parson,
“ Captain. You landsmen think that a

“ sailor can see nothing without his glass :
“ but, d’ye mind ? I kept a sharp look
“ out, and I know, by the cut of his jib,
“ he is no parson ”

The wager was accordingly laid in due form, and Jack undertook to produce the offending parties in three days, on condition that if he won the bet, they were to partake of the rump and dozen.

The Admiral agreed to it, but insisted that if he won they should not have a slice : indeed, he was confident of victory, and warned English against attacking a seasoned old fellow, like himself.

Soon afterwards, the Captain and Mr. Roberts took an opportunity of retiring from the room ; and having equipped themselves in the shooting jackets,—English taking care to put on that which had been worn by Roberts, who was in

fact the spokesman on the occasion above alluded to, sent a message to Sir Philip, that two strangers requested to speak with him.

The Baronet desired that the gentlemen might be shewn into the room, which was accordingly done, and the Admiral immediately recognizing Captain English, declared that he was not *to be taken in*, by such false colours ; for that neither he nor the other gentleman was the person who had been upon his manor in the morning.

English, who had disfigured his face, and attempted as much as possible to disguise his voice, insisted that he was the person whom the Admiral had mistaken for a parson ; and appealed to Counsellor Collis, whether he did not exactly answer

the description which the Admiral gave of the poacher.

Ortolan persisted in saying, that it was impossible to deceive him by any such stratagem : but that he was absolutely certain the person who spoke to him in the morning, was not Captain English ; and he was equally sure that it was not the gentleman who now accompanied him ; he was much taller, and indeed they were not at all alike.

Mr. Roberts then asked if he did not recognize his voice ? “ No,” said the Admiral, “ I’ll be d—d if I can do any “ such thing ; and so *avast* with your “ jokes ! You may try your tricks upon “ Sir Philip, but old *tarpaulin* is not to “ be imposed upon like a west-country- “ baronet.”

A complete developement ensued ; and Mr. Roberts, after having begged pardon for occasioning the Admiral so much vexation, told him, that he hoped the loss of his bet would be a memento, which would, in future, prevent him from being so tenacious about a hare, or a partridge ; “ for
“ I beg leave to assure you, Sir, on my
“ honour,” added Mr. Roberts, “ that we
“ had shot nothing but the rabbit which I
“ shewed you, I confess rather in a rough
“ manner ; and how you happened to suppose it was a hare, you can best explain.”

“ Well, well,” said the Admiral, “ it is
“ all one, now : I hope there is no ill
“ blood, gentlemen ; ” for Mr. O'Donnell had in the conclusion taken his part in the resumed debate,—“ let us shake hands
“ and forget it. I hope we shall be very
“ merry over the rump and dozen which

“ young Fair Weather has *done me out of*.

“ Counsellor, can he legally compel me

“ to pay forfeit?”

“ No, he can not ;” said Collis, “ but

“ I can : for, as I am to partake of it, I

“ can prove damages, if you do not fulfil

“ your agreement ; and, you may depend

“ upon it, that I am never *absent* on such

“ occasions.”

However, the Counsellor afterwards recollected, that he had engaged to attend the opening of one of the courts, in a cause, which was then to be argued ; and, therefore, relinquished his intention of making one in the Admiral's party.

The day was, however, fixed ; the sportsmen promised to be punctual to the hour, and Sir Philip English engaged to join them.

CHAPTER XII.

THE stage coaches to Oxford which ran by Blackwood-Hall, passed near "the Steeple-House," as the Quaker called it, in the village where Admiral Ortolan resided.

The morning proving very wet, the Admiral, who had come to Blackwood, on horseback, determined to avail himself of one of the machines, to return to his own house. The old man would have prevailed upon Captain English to accompany him, but the latter declined the invitation, as he hourly expected to see his friend, Lord Rivulet, from whom he had received a letter, to inform him that he should pass that way, in a few days.

“ Now that is very unlucky,” said Ortolan, “ for I shall hate to be hasped up “ in one of those vehicles, with nobody “ to speak to.”

Sir Philip immediately told the Admiral that, if he was so very desirous of company, he, himself, would go with him, for he had some business, which required his presence, at Oxford ; and would take that opportunity of going thither, with the intention of returning to the Admiral's in time to partake of the *rump and dozen*.

These preliminaries being adjusted, and three or four portmanteaus of the Baronet consigned to the care of his old footman, Harry, who was always Sir Philip's travelling attendant ; the coach was hailed as it passed Blackwood-Hall.

Sir Philip received an admonitory hint

from his sister, not to forget to call on her great friend, Belle Jackson, who, on the verge of eighty, still maintained her right to the appellation of *the Evergreen*; and, by her vivacity and pleasant manner, was the delight as well as admiration of all her acquaintances.

Sir Philip promised obedience; and, then, with his friend the Admiral, *embarked*, as he called it, in search of adventures.

There were already in the coach two passengers, one of them a respectable-looking country-gentleman, the other, apparently, a farmer's wife; who, in answer to some inquiry which her fellow-traveller had addressed to her, was giving him an account of the principal objects on the road.

She seemed to be an intelligent woman,

and interspersed the information which she gave, by several particulars relative to the persons whose names she had occasion to introduce, so as to prove that she was well acquainted with the neighbourhood.

At length the Admiral coming in sight of his own house, (which, on account of its elevation, was a striking object, two or three miles on the road, before they arrived at it) ; by way of a joke, and pointing to the mansion, inquired: “ Pray, Madam, who lives at that house ? ”

“ One Admiral Ortolan,” replied the communicative lady.

“ As you seem to know almost every body,” said the Admiral, “ perhaps, you can tell us something of his character.”

“ Nothing very pleasant, I assure you,
“ Sir ! ”

“ Well, let us hear a little about him,” continued Ortolan.

“ If you must know his character, Sir,” said the good woman, “ he is called the
“ worst husband, the worst father, the
“ worst master, the worst landlord, and
“ the worst neighbour, in England.”

“ D—me!” said Ortolan, “ but you
“ have done him now! How do you
“ know all this, Madam?”

“ What the eye sees, the tongue may
“ tell,” replied the woman.

“ But if you are not ashamed to say
“ such things,” said the Admiral, “ I
“ wonder that you are not afraid.”

“ Afraid, Sir!” repeated the woman,
“ I do not care a pinch of snuff for him,
“ though I am the wife of one of his te-
“ nants; for we owe him no rent, and
“ if any body would give him more mo-

“ney for the farm, he would, to-morrow,
“send us warning to leave it. He beats
“his wife, half starves his children, al-
“ways contrives to quarrel with his ser-
“vants, and turn them out of door, be-
“fore they can claim their wages ; and if
“any of his neighbours were to leave a
“wheelbarrow or a bucket at their gate,
“it would be ten to one, that he either
“stole it, or threw it into the horse-pond.”

Sir Philip could not, without the utmost difficulty, maintain a becoming composure ; and the Admiral was in a violent heat.

“Upon my soul you are quite scurri-
“lous, madam ;—you should take care
“what you say :”——then recovering
himself a little, and endeavouring to keep
up the appearance of being disinterested
on the subject.—“But, Madam, this is

“ his private character. I think you called him Admiral. What sort of an officer is he ? ”

“ He has ate the King’s bread, all his life,” said she, “ and would cut off his head, if he dared ! ”

This was enough even to silence the Admiral. Whilst he was meditating whether he should say any thing more, or fairly give up the contest, the coach arrived at that point of the road which was nearest to his residence. He, therefore, shook hands with Sir Philip, and, with a significant shrug, said, “ You will not forget to be in time for dinner, on Friday ; ” and stepped out of the coach ; then, as if recollecting himself, he turned round, wished the other passengers a good morning ; and thought he should abash his loquacious companion by saying to her, “ Ma-

“ dam, before I take my leave of you,
“ please to understand that *I* am Admiral
“ Ortolan :”—to which, with the most
provoking composure, she replied,—
“ I knew that ever since you got into the
“ coach !”

Sir Philip and his remaining fellow-traveller indulged themselves with a hearty laugh, the Admiral made the best of his way towards his Mansion-house, and the farmer's wife, without saying one word about what had passed, soon quitted the coach at her own door.

In a few minutes her place was supplied by a person who seemed to have been waiting at a public-house, by the side of the road, and who soon entered into conversation with his new associates, as freely and familiarly as the farmer's wife, before-mentioned.

Many beautiful prospects presented themselves on either side, and having arrived at a part of the road which was remarkably striking; “ I have often
“ thought,” said Sir Philip, “ that this
“ is a charming country; and if the
“ neighbourhood be social and pleasant,
“ I think a man might pass his time very
“ comfortably at one of those neat villas,
“ —such an one as that, for instance;”
—singling out one of the most conspicuous, at no great distance from the road.

It was a pretty little building, in the Venetian taste; standing in a small paddock, which was separated from a beautiful and well-wooded park, by a handsome piece of water.

Clumps of trees, and elegant plantations, which in fact belonged to the domain of a nobleman, whose magnificent

seat was hidden by an intervening eminence seemed as if designed to ornament this villa; and Sir Philip had no sooner expressed his opinion in the manner above related, than the gentleman entered with great spirit and animation into a description of the interior comforts and decorations of the house.

“ You are acquainted with the person who lives there, I presume:” said the Baronet.

The speaker smiled, and with a bow, laying his hand on his breast, said,—
“ As well, Sir, as I am with myself.—
“ I am excessively sorry that I am going
“ as far as Oxford; and, therefore, cannot
“ invite you to pay a visit to my little habitation. Indeed, I may say,
“ without vanity, that it is a pretty place,
“ for it has been so constantly the theme

“ of praise, among all who have seen it,
“ that I have no doubt you would join
“ in the general opinion; and congratu-
“ late me on being the possessor of so
“ delicious a spot.”

“ I have,” continued he, “ all the
“ advantages of woods, water, and ex-
“ tensive pleasure-grounds without the
“ expence of keeping them in order; for
“ Lord Amwell is extremely liberal, and
“ affords me every opportunity I can de-
“ sire, both as a neighbour and a sports-
“ man, of adding to the comforts of
“ Mount-Pleasant all the advantages
“ which the vicinity of his fine park
“ affords.”

Observing that the other passenger as well as Sir Philip seemed to listen, with the greatest attention, to what he said; and pleased by their concurrent admira-

tion, the gentleman repeated his regret that he was going to Oxford, and thus excluded the opportunity of shewing them his house and its accompaniments.

Just then, the coachman pulled up, in order to water his horses, near a turnpike-gate. The gentleman inquired how long he should stop. "Not two minutes:" was the reply. "It is confoundedly unlucky," said he;—"if they had even stopped to change horses, we might have had time to step in and get a sandwich."

In the midst of these civil speeches, the person who has been already mentioned as a passenger previous to Sir Philip English's getting into the vehicle, was descending from the coach.

"Sir," said he, addressing the polite gentleman, "I thank you, for your very

“ excellent description of a house, which
“ I am much mistaken if I may not call
“ my own ; having built it about ten
“ years ago, and inhabited it ever since :
“ —and to convince you that I consider
“ myself under a real obligation for the
“ compliment you have thus paid to my
“ taste : if this gentleman,” turning to
Sir Philip English, “ will condescend to
“ be of the party, I will endeavour to
“ prevail upon the coachman to wait a
“ few minutes, whilst we realize the
“ *fable* of the sandwiches.”

Sir Philip thanked him for his intended civility, and observed, that on his return from Oxford, he should be very likely to trouble him with a call, for that he should like to see the house ; and particularly after what had passed.

For some reason or other, the gentle-

man, who had before been so very talkative, only stammered out an awkward acknowledgement; and was afterwards, to use Sir Philip's expression, as dumb-founded as his friend Admiral Ortolan had been, in the morning.

When the coach arrived at Oxford, Sir Philip lost his companion; but his curiosity having been much excited by the scene which had taken place at Mount-Pleasant, he inquired of the coachman who the gentleman was; and, to his great surprise, discovered that he was a hatter, and generally esteemed a reputable tradesman, but had unfortunately acquired the habit of amusing persons with whom he accidentally met, by strange stories of his own consequence.

The Baronet having accomplished the business which required his attention,

paid a friendly visit to *the Evergreen*, whom he found upon the spot which she had occupied for so many years, near Trinity College.

She was entertaining a select party, with the utmost gaiety, and never appeared better in health or spirits.

“ Sir Philip,” said the Evergreen, “ it
“ is now fifty years since we have been
“ acquainted. I do not think we shall,
“ either of us, live to be old; and, there-
“ fore, I contrive to make the most of
“ my time, just as I used to do.—I had
“ company to breakfast, this morning:
“ —then went with my dear Mrs. Tre-
“ becks an airing through Headington
“ and Stanton St. John; dined at Christ-
“ Church with the Dean; and am as you
“ see, surrounded by a number of young
“ friends, who, as well as myself, will,

“ I am sure, be proud of the honor of
“ your company to the music room, to
“ which we are going after tea, to hear
“ the performance of a young lady from
“ London, who has, as I am informed
“ by the amateurs, as tuneful a pipe as
“ ever sounded on the banks of Isis,—not
“ excepting Madame Mara and the great
“ Banti.”

Sir Philip gladly joined the party, not more on account of the performance, which, however, excited universal admiration, than from the satisfaction he felt, that his old and valuable acquaintance, at her very advanced age, was still capable of participating in the enjoyments, to which her presence had formerly given the most exquisite zest and polish.

When Sir Philip left Oxford, he tra-

velled post, as it is called, for the sole purpose of being enabled to pay a short visit at Mount-Pleasant, as he had promised the proprietor to do, with so much alacrity indeed, that he had not even waited to ask his name.

At the turnpike-gate, where the developement had been made, which threw the hatter into so much confusion, Sir Philip, on inquiry, was informed that Mount-Pleasant belonged to a Mr. Skiddaw, the gentleman with whom he had travelled. "He was here, Sir," said the man, "to wait for the coach, " for he said that you had promised him " a visit on your return, to day, and he " was very much vexed at the disappointment of not meeting with you ; for he " is a very particular old gentleman."

Sir Philip did not stay to ask any more

questions; but ordered the postilion to drive to Mr. Skiddaw's; and was soon set down at the door of one of the most charming villas he had ever seen.

Nature and art seemed to have gone hand in hand in the embellishment of the scenery which surrounded this delightful retreat; and simplicity, united with the purest taste, had guided no parsimonious hand in the formation and arrangement of its interior as well as exterior decorations.

It was Elysium in miniature: and the symmetry of the building was so perfect, and its adaptation to the surrounding scenery so exact, that they mutually set off the advantages of each other, and formed so harmonious a picture, that the ideas of space and extent were never so much as thought of.

The door was opened by a female servant, who shewed Sir Philip into the parlour; and immediately disappeared to call her master, who, in some degree, surprised the Baronet by addressing him by his name.

Mr. Skiddaw expressed himself under great obligations for the favour of this friendly visit, and conducted Sir Philip throughout the whole of the little territory, which, take it all in all, was almost a paradise.

“ Indeed, I am not surprised,” said Sir Philip, “ that the latter should
“ have taken such a fancy for this place,
“ and said so many fine things in its
“ praise; for Mount-Pleasant deserves
“ them all, and with one only exception,
“ that of the neighbourhood of Cuffnells
“ and Lyndhurst in the New Forest, is

“ of the kind the most delightful spot
“ I ever saw.”

Mr. Skiddaw had not been able to make any discovery respecting the person who laid claim to his villa; indeed, having the uninterrupted possession of it, he had given himself very little trouble about the matter, and only laughed at the arrogance of the fellow who had so ridiculously exposed himself: but the subject being thus revived, he joined Sir Philip in the laugh, and condescended once more to be very merry at the latter's expence.

Mr. Skiddaw invited Sir Philip, with so much earnestness to partake of dinner before he proceeded on his journey, that the Baronet could not refuse: moreover, he was not a little pleased with his new acquaintance, whom he found to be a very

sensible, well-informed man, though strictly an eccentric character.

Mr. Skiddaw had circumnavigated the globe with Cook, and having seen the manners and customs of many nations, deviated from those of his own country, with proportionably less reluctance, as he had become more acquainted with the varieties of the world.

His fortune was supposed to be ample, for he had spared no expence in fitting up his residence, as has been already noticed; and he lived hospitably and generously. Sir Philip was however a little surprised, that when the dinner was served, which consisted of many delicacies, three females, dressed in whimsical habits, and with wreaths of artificial flowers on their heads, were the only attendants: but, in the course of conversation, Mr. Skiddaw

remarked, that he never suffered any male servant within his doors, and had almost resolved to carry this opposition to the common usage of the country so far, as to set his maids up behind his carriage. Indeed he was only prevented by their own untractableness; having absolutely out-argued the bishop of the diocese, who took an opportunity when he happened to meet with him, of endeavouring to convince Mr. Skiddaw that there was as much impropriety in employing women about some of the domestic offices incident to modern establishments, such as lacquies and grooms, as in retaining men in the places of friseurs, milliners, staymakers, and chambermaids.

Skiddaw, who had sojourned from the Hebrides to the desarts of Crim Tartary, had visited the ruins of Persepolis, Pal-

myra, and Herculaneum,—been introduced to the Czarina of all the Russias, in her ancient capital of Moscow,—danced with the wife of the Dooghty at Tongataboo, and at Otaheite became almost as great a favourite with Queen Oberea, as Sir Joseph Banks :—such an universal traveller could not be very easily prevailed upon to relinquish his notions or inclinations, by the persuasion of clergy, or laity, and notwithstanding the bishop sounded the “ drum ecclesiastic,” Mr. Skiddaw still persisted in his resolution, and was only prevented from carrying it into effect, by the opposition it met with from the parties concerned. The maids positively refused to ride behind the coach. This anecdote Skiddaw himself related to Sir Philip English ; adding, that he rejoiced to find

that the rage for barouche-driving had at length introduced a fashion, of which he intended to avail himself,—that of having a boot and dickey to a gentleman's carriage, like that heretofore affixed to the stage coaches, “so that,” said he, “by becoming my own coachman, I can not only avoid the necessity of employing any man about the premises, but may indulge my fancy, by placing two of my girls in the boot, and one on the dickey by my side, without incurring scandal.”

“Pray, Sir,” said Sir Philip, as a mere question of curiosity, (for he gave himself no farther concern with the speculations of Mr. Skiddaw, than with the sensations of the Pope, when some foreigner of great distinction is about to salute the toe of his holiness,)—“how many do you keep?”

“ There are eight in all,” said Mr. Skiddaw, “ but if you mean under my
“ protection literally, and according to the
“ fashionable phrase, not one I assure you,
“ Sir Philip. They are all vestals for me.
“ I never engage any one unless she have
“ an unblemished character:—indeed, I
“ have only had one new face these last
“ three years, and she is not yet quite re-
“ conciled to the habits of the house, ha-
“ ving been used, as I suppose, to live
“ where there are men servants. She let
“ you into the house, and came running
“ to me,—“ Sir, Sir, here is Sir Philip
“ “ English ; I beg you to excuse me from
“ “ waiting at table to-day.” This was
“ indeed the method by which I became
“ acquainted with your name ; for I had
“ not before the honour of knowing it.”

Sir Philip had only a slight glimpse at

the girl, at the time of his arrival ; but he thought he recollected her features : and it was also pretty certain that she also had recognized the Baronet, who, however, could not, at the instant, remember where he had seen her, and the idea soon passed completely from his mind.

The truth is, that Sir Philip had seen her a thousand times ; for it was no other than the identical Sally who was mentioned in the beginning of this history ; and who having soon grown tired of living in barracks, and riding on a baggage waggon, had forsaken her military escort, and contrived to get introduced among Mr. Skiddaw's *vestals of unblemished character* :—but she was so much altered by the sun, and a variety of hardships to which she had been exposed, since she had lost the benefits of *protection*, that it was not

very extraordinary she should have escaped detection ; particularly as the Baronet was not remarkably quick-sighted, and his attention somewhat engrossed by the novelty of the scene, which he was, for the first time, about to inspect.

After due acknowledgments to his obliging host, and a pressing invitation to favour him with a visit at Blackwood-Hall, Sir Philip took his leave, and pursued his journey towards the seat of Admiral Ortolan, where he arrived just before the close of the evening.

The Admiral not expecting his visitor so soon, for it was not until the next day that the forfeit-dinner was to be given, was absent when Sir Philip reached Coromandel-House.

Whilst the Baronet was awaiting his return, a coach stopped at the door, out

of which descended an old man very much muffled up, and his hat tied on with a pocket handkerchief. It was Counsellor Collis, who was not less surprised at meeting with his old acquaintance Sir Philip, than was the latter at seeing Collis, whom he supposed to be by this time, on his journey to London.

“-Collis,” said Sir Philip, “ who should have thought of meeting you here? I understood that you intended being in town by this time.”

“ So I did,” replied the Counsellor, “ but all the post horses on the road had been engaged for Lord Avonside, and it was very fortunate that I could get from the inn at Wycombe at any rate ; my meeting with an empty stage-coach was entirely accidental. It is certainly a breach of good manners as well as an

“ act of extreme folly in this inconsiderate,
“ I had almost said hair-brained, peer,”
continued Collis, “ to interrupt all the
“ business as well as pleasure of the coun-
“ try, merely to gratify a whim of ex-
“ travagant affectation. I am informed
“ that his lordship always keeps the know-
“ ledge of his intended removal from
“ place to place, a profound secret, even
“ from his family and servants, and that
“ whenever he is disposed to visit his
“ castle in the country, or to amuse the
“ House with an *unanswerable* speech,
“ (for, for some cause or other, nobody
“ seems to take the least notice of what
“ he says), his Lordship writes to the
“ post-masters, and orders all their horses
“ to be kept in readiness for him at every
“ town upon the road: so that, until

“ it please heaven and Lord Avonside,
“ no other person can move a foot.

“ This is the case, at present, and has
“ been for these ten days,—and, perhaps,
“ in another week, my Lord may change
“ his mind; and then the inn-keepers
“ have another pretty weighty item to add
“ to the old score;—and all this at a time,
“ Sir Philip, when his lordship is at his
“ last shifts for a guinea; and buys his
“ wine by a dozen or two at a time!”

“ But, surely, *you* did not travel the
“ nearest way,” continued Collis. “No:”
replied Sir Philip; “ I have been at
“ Mount-Pleasant, to see a very pleasant
“ fellow there, Mr. Skiddaw, whom I
“ became acquainted with, by travelling
“ in the stage-coach, the other day.”

“ That was fortunate,” said Collis;

“ but, for my own part, I have been quite
“ alone :—by the bye, I desired to have a
“ cup of tea, for I have had no dinner to-
“ day.” Then ringing the bell, a servant
appeared. “ Is the tea ready, which I or-
“ dered ? ” said the Counsellor. The ser-
vant brought the tea, and as Collis was
sipping it :—“ How long,” said he, “ will
“ it be, before the coachman is ready ?
“ I wish you would send him to me.”

The servant withdrew ; and Admiral
Ortolan’s coachman presently made his
appearance. “ Did you wish to speak to
“ me, Sir ? ”

“ Only to inquire how long it will be
“ before you are ready,” said the Coun-
sellor. The man looked surprised.—
“ Sir ! ”

“ Did you drive the coach I came in ? ”
said Collis.

“ No, Sir,” replied the coachman ;
“ it was my Lord Rivulet.”

“ What do you say ? ” said Collis.

“ It was my Lord Rivulet himself, who
“ drove you here, Sir.”

“ How ! what do you mean ? ” said the
Counsellor,—then looking around him,
like a man just awaking from a dream, in
a strange chamber into which he had been
conveyed in the dark :—“ What is the
“ name of this inn ? Is it not the Old
“ Hats ?—Waiter ! Waiter ! ”

“ This is Admiral Ortolan’s house,
“ Sir,” said the coachman ; who thought
the old Counsellor was out of his senses.
At this instant the Admiral himself entered
the room with Lord Rivulet and Jack
English, laughing immoderately : my
Lord, with his long whip, great coat, and
boots.—“ Well, Counsellor, dash my

“ wig, but I honour you for your consideration :—that was the best glass of rum I ever tasted in my life !”

The Counsellor, who neither knew what he had been doing, nor scarcely what was passing, at present, was struck mute with astonishment : but, after a few minutes, an explanation was obtained, in substance, as follows :—

Lord Rivulet had called upon his friend English, at Blackwood-Hall, and insisted on taking him to London in his new coach, which was just launched. This elegant machine was built upon the plan of the stages, and fitted up with boot, dickey, &c. the only difference being, that it was entirely painted yellow, roof, body, and carriage. Instead of arms, his Lordship's crest, painted very large on the panels, might be easily taken for the Swan

with two Necks, of Lad-Lane notoriety ; and the name of the honourable proprietor and of the builder of this curious machine, in Runic letters on the doors, might, by a person less remarkable for absence than Collis, have been thought, at a transient glance, the usual decorations of a stage-coach.

This vehicle, Lord Rivulet driving four-in-hand, with Jack English seated on the dickey by his side, and two servants in the boot, passed Counsellor Collis, in a post-chaise, on the road. Jack entertained his lordship with an account of the christening ; and having stopped to bait at Wycombe, where the Counsellor was disappointed of horses, overheard him lamenting that there was no stage coach, by which he might be conveyed to town.

Lord Rivulet slipped on his great coat,

slouched his hat over his face, and looking into the parlour where the old Counsellor was waiting for his dinner, called out, in a gruff voice :—" Any body for London ?
" All ready, your honours."

Up started Collis, with a bundle of papers in his hand :—" Very lucky ; very
" lucky, indeed, coachee :— what time
" shall we get to town ? "

" In very good time, your honour, I'll
" warrant." In stepped Collis, smack went the whip, round went the wheels, and his lordship, with his fine bays, soon left Wycombe far behind him, and London still farther at every step ; for it was resolved upon to carry the Counsellor down to Admiral Ortolan's, and compel him to partake of the *rump and dozen*.

The difficulty of the undertaking was already surmounted ; the Counsellor fixed

his mind upon the notes of his cause, which, according to custom, he carried in his hand ; and, unless his lordship had driven him into the sea, so long as the coach kept upon wheels, Collis would have had no idea of going wrong.

Highly diverted with the *fun*, it was vastly increased, when, on stopping to water the horses, the Counsellor gravely calling the coachman from his box, gave him a shilling to get a glass of rum ; “ for,” said he, “ you drive excellently, my lad : “ —but can I get a mouthful of any thing “ to eat, for I am very hungry ? ”

“ Can’t stop, your honour, till we come “ to the Old-Hats,” where the Counsellor actually believed that he had arrived, when he was conversing with Sir Philip English, in Admiral Ortolan’s parlour.

On an *éclaircissement*, Collis could

not forbear laughing, but told Lord Rivulet that he must not value himself on the success of his joke; for that, it was not the first time, he (the Counsellor) had made a blunder of the same kind, having, once before, at the very same inn, got into the coach which was going to Oxford, instead of that which was going to London, and did not at all suspect his mistake, till he arrived at Magdalen-bridge.

CHAPTER XIII.

SIR PHILIP ENGLISH congratulated Lord Rivulet on the improvement in his appearance, since he left him at Ryegate; for his lordship had repaired all the breaches which had been made, by the accidents he had met with. Dumergue had supplied him with a pair of natural teeth; for my Lord swore that he would have nothing to do with *china-ware and composition*, having lost a thousand pounds, upon a game at billiards, in consequence of a speculation of that kind.

His eyebrows, indeed, were not yet regenerated; but they had been incomparably well matched. Indeed, his lordship told

a pleasant anecdote about them : he said, that he happened to call upon a dowager, of his acquaintance, who, not choosing to admit him to the secrets of her *toilette*, had come down in so much hurry, that she had stuck a pair of artificial eyebrows about half an inch above their proper place ; which, however, still retained those that had been worn the day before. “ I stepped up to her,” said his lordship, and, as gravely as I could, said, “ allow me to steal something which
“ is of no use to your ladyship, but will
“ be of great consequence to me : and,
“ without any farther ceremony, stripped
“ off the superfluous eyebrows, and placed
“ them on my own face, where they have
“ remained ever since. The old woman
“ was very angry,” added Rivulet ; “ but I
“ did not care a straw for that ; and I
“ have told every body how I came by

“ the ornaments of my brow ; which is
“ more than some men would be able to
“ do, without blushing.”

The company at Coromandel-House were merry and convivial. The sportsmen arrived in good time ; and Mr. Worth made a very agreeable addition to the party ; for, having perceived himself so much better as to undertake the journey, he had been induced to ride over in Sir Philip’s coach, which was to meet the Baronet there on his return from Oxford.

The company was numerous ; for Ortolan had invited several of his acquaintances to meet Sir Philip ; and the Admiral treated his guests handsomely. He was, however, a man of irritable temper, and boisterous manners ; and even this convivial day could not pass over without a specimen of his violence.

It happened, at dinner, that the Admiral, being about to cut up a duck, perceived that it was only about half roasted. His choler immediately rose, and he reprimanded the servants with his usual impetuosity. One of them, whose temper was, perhaps, too much like that of his master, to submit to such coarse rebukes, muttered a reply; and, Ortolan, seeing the motion of his lips, although he could not hear the sound of the fellow's voice, immediately seizing hold of one of the feet, hurled the duck at him, with great violence; luckily, however, for the servant, the slipperiness of the foot disappointed the intention of the Admiral, and the duck, striking Mr. Worth on the breast, fell into a plate of soup, and scattered the contents over every one, on that

side of the table; to the no small diversion of the rest of the company, who had escaped this agreeable salutation.

The next morning Sir Philip and Mr. Worth departed, for Blackwood-Hall, the sportsmen pursued their tour, and the rest of the company returned to their respective residences.

Lord Rivulet said that he would not be *bilked* of his fare, as the Counsellor had engaged a place in his machine all the way to town; and, therefore, insisted on making good his engagement to carry him there: and Collis was so well pleased with the skill his lordship had displayed in jockeyship, that, in opposition to the remonstrances of Admiral Ortolan, who swore that he would as soon trust himself in the Bay of Biscay in a washing-tub,

as on board such a crazy vessel with a pilot like his lordship, he agreed that my lord should drive him to London.

“ You will be wrecked,” said the Admiral, “ before you have made half the voyage. I tell you, Collis, she is not worth sea-room now: she has lost her stays, by the look of her; and her timbers are all starting. If a stiff gale should come on, shiver me, but her main-mast goes by the board, directly, and then avast, Counsellor! You had better secure yourself in the long boat at once.”

However, the Counsellor said he had made up his mind on the case, and would for once venture his neck.

“ That is right, Counsellor,” said his lordship,—“ besides who ever heard of a lawyer being *drowned*.—You know the

“ old proverb : I am sure Sir Philip English does :”—and off drove his lordship in the style of the president of the Whip-Club, when running down to Bedford to dinner.

Lord Rivulet had been enabled to sport his new equipage in this dashing and elegant manner, principally by some recent successes at a certain fashionable gaming table to which he sometimes resorted ; where, under the sanction, or, at least protection, of rank and quality, the vigilance of those, whose Argus eyes are intent upon every thing out of which advantage may be gained, is either counteracted, or totally ineffectual.

This his lordship acknowledged, in a conversation with Sir Philip English. The Baronet inveighed against the infamy of frequenting common gaming houses ; and

Lord Rivulet in vindication of himself and his friend Jack English, positively averred that they had not, for the last twelve months, set their foot within the door-way of any house of that description. “And yet,” said his lordship, “I will not deny, that I shake my elbow a little sometimes; and have contrived to pocket twenty thousand pounds since I saw you, Sir Philip, at Ryegate. All done at a sitting,—there’s for you, Baronet:—all fair as day, clear and honourable.”

Sir Philip only restrained his indignation by the aid of the spirit of curiosity; and his lordship stated, that when a young gentleman just come into possession of plenty of cash, or the heir of a good estate which he is likely soon to inherit, makes his first appearance in town, it is

considered an act of kindness to introduce him into company. That there can be no difficulty among persons of equal or superior rank, in obtaining access to him: and that an invitation to make one in a party at a tavern usually leads to more particular acquaintance, and is followed up by invitations to private houses. A splendid dinner, a magnificent service, plenty of good wine generously distributed, and agreeable company, with, perhaps, some beautiful women of the party, leave scarcely any room for refusing the entertainer so trivial a favour as to take a hand at cards. Commendations of good play, and occasional successes pave the way for future visits, and even beget a fondness for such amusements, however they may have been previously avoided; and if the young man should be induced to venture

a large stake, or meet with an unfortunate reverse of luck;—it is very natural to attribute it to inexperience, accidental inebriety, or one of those casual whims which dame Fortune sometimes displays even to her greatest favourites. To what else can it be attributed? Certainly not to unfair play; for the rank and condition of the parties effectually secure them even from suspicion; and, in the multitude of counsellors surrounding the young heir, it is a thousand to one that some of them have warned him against making his bet or venturing his card, or have staked large sums on his head;—so that doubt, itself, is lulled to sleep, and he has nobody to blame but himself.

“ But when a man has been fleeced and
“ plundered of his property, by a set of
“ sharpers, for I can call such titled

“ knaves no better,” said Sir Philip, “ has
“ he never spirit enough to call them to
“ account ; or seek redress ? ”

“ My dear Baronet,” said his lordship,
who could be more serious on this topic
than on any other, for he understood
it better (but flushed with his recent suc-
cesses he o’er-stepped the usual modesty
of the actors in such scenes, by disclosing
so much of the arcana), “ what can a
“ fellow do, in such a case ? Remember
“ the influence of numbers,—property,
“ —rank !—Suppose him to have a fancy
“ for pistols, there is Lord E— O—, or
“ Sir John O’E—, or half a score of
“ six-feet-high fellows of the same stamp,
“ with lank jaws and huge mustachios,
“ who would be ready to try their skill
“ with him, if it were only to have bets
“ made upon the shot : nay, who *must*

“ do it; who live *by* it; and are main-
“ tained, and trained *for* that very pur-
“ pose.—Or, perhaps, he might be in-
“ dulged with the pleasant alternative of
“ being kicked down stairs, without any
“ ceremony; and dismissed the house,
“ with contempt, for breeding a distur-
“ bance in a quiet snug agreeable party.”

“ But are the laws of the police asleep?”
said Sir Philip.

“ No, by my conscience,” replied my
lord, “ they are awake for twenty-four
“ hours every day in the week, and *thir-*
“ *ty* on Sundays. But what of that?
“ What have they to do with the pro-
“ ceedings at your house or mine?—
“ Their business is with the inferior or-
“ ders;—to prevent the practice of ne-
“ cromancy and conjuration, by which

“ servant maids and others of his Majes-
“ ty’s liege subjects, are sometimes drawn
“ into the expense of a shilling or half
“ a crown, to hear a cock and bull story,
“ instead of laying out the money in
“ gin :—thus defrauding the revenue, and
“ at the same time violating the statute :
“ or, in correcting the profane Irish la-
“ bourers, who, because they were told
“ by their fathers and mothers that the
“ Sabbath is a day of rest, used to sing
“ and fiddle on a Sunday in their own
“ dear Dublin ; and think they may be
“ equally wicked in our pious cities of
“ London and Westminster. It was a
“ strange oversight among the saints,
“ that when the act of Union passed the
“ House, they forgot to introduce a clause
“ to prohibit any Irishman from whist-

“ ling on Sunday, under the degree of a
“ Member of Parliament, or the first cou-
“ sin of a Peer !”

“ There is another employment of the
“ adjutants of law and morality, which, I
“ dare say, you never heard of, Sir Philip,
“ among your constables and parish offi-
“ cers in the country. It is in laying
“ traps for the unwary : enticing old wo-
“ men to get drunk, and young ones to
“ be naughty, and then convicting them
“ of their atrocities :—marking money
“ and laying it where the needy may be
“ tempted to steal it ; and setting open
“ doors to save trouble to house-breakers,
“ lest they should be seized with a fit of
“ compunction for the offence about to
“ be committed, and thus, by avoiding
“ the evil they had meditated, cheat the

“ law of its victim, and their brother,
“ Jack Ketch, of his fee.”

“ Your lordship is very right,” said Sir Philip, “ in supposing that I have never
“ heard of such proceedings among pa-
“ rish officers in the country, whom I
“ believe to be, in general, more con-
“ scientious: but I have heard of such
“ an instance of depravity of mind, in a
“ considerable manufacturer there, who
“ connived at the introduction of rob-
“ bers into his own house, and marked
“ his money so minutely, that the im-
“ pression could not be perceived without
“ a magnifying glass, in order to convict
“ them of felony; of which, a little
“ vigilance and humanity might easily
“ have prevented their being guilty. He
“ did convict the unhappy offenders;—

“ one of them the nephew of a respectable neighbour ! My private sentiments on the occasion were, that if I had acted in the same manner, an internal monitor would have nightly whispered me, “ *sleep no more !*” The tempter shall “ *sleep no more !*” Indeed, my lord,” continued Sir Philip, with rising indignation, “ this is assuming the worst part of the character of the devil : first to seduce, and then betray !—But your lordship ought to know, that if a regular complaint were to be preferred against the persons who permit gaming in their houses, the magistrates are bound by their oaths to investigate the matter truly and impartially, without favour or affection.”

“ That may be law in the country,” said Lord Rivulet, “ but not in town :

“ however, I will not allow it to be so,
“ until I have spoken to swindling Nick,
“ for he knows all about it; and has
“ whole histories of black transactions, in
“ their proper colour, rolled up with his
“ father’s will.”

“ Pray, who is swindling Nick?” said
Sir Philip.

“ Why the Grosvenor-place Extor-
“ tioner, to be sure! You country ma-
“ gistrates are not up to half the improve-
“ ments which have taken place of late
“ years. Justice is no longer blind, Sir
“ Philip. She has pulled off the bandage
“ from her eyes. This is all. The office
“ of a magistrate in town may be very
“ advantageous as well as honourable:—
“ but—mum!”

CHAPTER XIV.

SIR PHILIP ENGLISH had a considerable estate in Staffordshire, which had fallen to him by the death of a distant relation.

The Baronet had frequently promised to make an excursion to see it ; and had as often been prevented : but the period having arrived at which the term of several of his tenants' leases expired, he felt an inclination to inspect his domains, before he entered into fresh engagements. He believed his steward, indeed, to be a very honest man ; but it was always a maxim with Sir Philip, that nothing is so well done, as that which a person does himself. Having, therefore, resolved upon his jour-

ney, and the manner of it, which was to be on horseback, the Baronet left his mansion at an early hour, and attended by his servant Harry, set out for Staffordshire.

Nothing worthy of particular remark occurred during the journey ; and Sir Philip had arrived within about twenty miles of his estate, when the weather, which had been hitherto remarkably fine for so early a part of the spring, changed, on a sudden, to a cold and misty rain ; which occasioned travelling on horseback to be excessively unpleasant.

The Baronet, therefore, resolved to stop at the first house of entertainment, whose appearance should promise decent accommodation ; and soon coming to a small inn, situated at the extremity of a village, communicated his intentions to his old servant, and entering the house, was much

pleased with its extreme neatness and regularity.

As the weather continued to be very unfavourable, the Baronet was unwilling to proceed ; and, having exhausted the contents of the newspaper, was about to give directions for his solitary dinner, when, observing a clergyman passing the house, he inquired of the landlord if that were the minister of the village. “ He is, Sir,” said the host, “ and as worthy a man as ever got into a pulpit.”

“ Is he sociable with his parishioners ? ” said Sir Philip.

“ Yes, Sir,” replied the landlord ; “ he lives like a brother amongst the old people, and is as kind as a father to the young ones.”

“ Then go to him, I pray,” said the Baronet, “ and say, that a stranger, who is

“ detained here by stress of weather,
“ would take it as a great favour if he will
“ come and eat a mutton chop with him.
“ Mind exactly my message ; and bring
“ me his answer, word for word.”

The landlord followed the clergyman, delivered his message, and soon returned.
“ The vicar is going to visit a sick person,
“ Sir, and has some other parochial duty
“ which requires his attendance, so that
“ he is sorry he could not have the pleasure of giving you a call immediately,
“ to thank you for your kind attention ;
“ but he will wait upon you in an hour,
“ or an hour and a half at farthest.”

“ Get us the very best dinner you can,” said the Baronet ; “ my servant will assist you, if you require any aid, for he is a Languedocian, and an excellent cook :—

“ and give us some of the best wine you
“ have in your cellar.”

The landlord conceived a very high opinion of his guest ; but, on questioning the servant, could obtain no farther information about him, than, that he was a gentleman of fortune going down into Staffordshire to visit his estate : for the Baronet had always made it an invariable rule, when he was on a journey, never to let his name be known, if he could avoid it.

He had, perhaps, no better reason for this habit, than, that he had heard of his father having been robbed, in consequence of an incautious disclosure of his name at a turnpike gate, as he was travelling. Such, however, was Sir Philip's whim ; and the orders, which Harry had received twenty years before, still remained unrescinded ; and, accordingly, he abstained

from gratifying the landlord's curiosity, by any account of the Baronet's life and parentage ; although he did great violence to his own feelings, by withholding a panegyric upon his master's generosity of disposition, to which he was prompted, both by his own long experience of his benevolence, and the encouragement of the landlord's praises.

“ I think myself quite in luck to-day, Harry,” said Sir Philip to his servant as he was laying the cloth, “ for I have got a
“ worthy clergyman coming to dine with
“ me :—pray take care that every thing be
“ as nicely done as possible.”

Harry intimated to Sir Philip, that the landlord seemed to have a great curiosity to know who he was. “ Aye, aye ;” said Sir Philip, “ that is because I talked to
“ him about cookery, and told him to

“ let me have good wine : do you take
“ care how it is decanted ; and, be sure,
“ let nothing be wanting.”

The clergyman arrived at the time appointed. He was a most venerable looking man ; his age, between fifty and sixty years, but his hair was perfectly white ; with the utmost benevolence of countenance ; and an eye, that beamed harmony and peace ; whilst his brow, though solemn, was totally destitute of superciliousness, and equally free from levity and gloom.

The furrows of his face had evidently a double origin, time and care ; but there was not one line amongst them, that could be construed into an indication of selfishness, or a token of ill-humour.

When he entered the room, Sir Philip apologized for the liberty, which, as a

stranger, he had taken, in thus obtruding himself on his notice :—“ but, Sir,” said the Baronet, “ I can see, by your countenance, that you are *given to hospitality*, as well as *apt to teach*, and, therefore, will, I am sure, excuse the want of ceremony, as that would have deprived me of the pleasure of seeing you, and the satisfaction of having a companion in this very dull day.”

The clergyman, in return, told Sir Philip, that it afforded him pleasure, by having returned home the day before, to be enabled to assist in dissipating the gloom of the weather : adding, that he had lately travelled into a distant part of the country on foot, without a single person to speak to ; and, therefore, knew, by experience, how irksome and uncomfortable it is for a person, naturally fond of society, to be

excluded the enjoyment of a friendly interchange of sentiments.

The dinner was sent in, entirely to the satisfaction both of the Baronet and his guest : the wine was excellent ; and, whatever the entertainment wanted of magnificence, was amply compensated by the civility and attention of the landord.

In the course of conversation, the clergyman happening to mention his own name, Sir Philip, who, all along, thought that he had a faint idea of the lineaments of his countenance, hastily interrupted him :—" Surely, Sir, I must have seen you before :—are you not a native of this county ? and were we not at school together ? —I am almost certain that I remember the name of Goodwill."

" And your name," replied the clergyman, " if I am not much mistaken,

“ is English,— Sir Philip English now,
“ I presume.”

“ The same,” said the Baronet, and shook hands with his old schoolfellow, with the greatest cordiality.

Numerous little incidents recurred to the memory of both, and the discussion of them soon introduced a more perfect recollection of each other.

“ I remember very well,” said Sir Philip, “ that when I left school, you
“ were thinking of going to the university ;
“ and it is very extraordinary that I
“ should never afterwards have heard
“ of you.”

Mr. Goodwill informed the Baronet, that soon after he had taken his bachelor's degree, he was unfortunately deprived, by death, of a relation upon whom he had principally depended. Afterwards, being

admitted into orders, he married a very amiable woman, and was blessed with several children : but his income being small, he was induced to accept the presentation to a living in one of the West-India-settlements ; but the ship, in which he sailed, in order to be inducted into the possession of the living, having fallen into the hands of the enemy, he was taken prisoner, and detained for many months. In the interim, his wife and children were reduced to almost absolute distress ; and on regaining his liberty, he had the misfortune to find that the living, which was of the value of a thousand pounds a year, was filled up by another incumbent. With happy prospects thus obscured, he returned to England.

After several years employed in an active and laborious discharge of the duties of

the ministry,—he was at length presented to a small vicarage, through the interest of a right reverend prelate, who had known him throughout the whole course of his life ; but whilst he bore a willing testimony on every occasion to the correctness of his morals, integrity and abilities, had suffered him to remain in obscurity, whilst many, who had no other recommendation than their family connections, were daily promoted over his head.

To this account, which Sir Philip collected from Mr. Goodwill himself, may be added the testimony of the landlord, respecting that exemplary clergyman :—that throughout his whole life, checquered by various calamities, he never suffered his philosophy to be subdued by afflictions, nor his patience overcome by sufferings.

The income of his living was but very

small, yet he had contrived to do much good with it. His presence diffused comfort to those around him ; the excellence of his example taught them a cheerful resignation to the will of Providence ; whilst the doctrines delivered from his pulpit confirmed their faith and improved their morals.

Like that most amiable picture drawn by Goldsmith, “ he was simple in prosperity, and majestic in adversity.” By his care and assiduity he reconciled many to the church, from which, either through negligence, or a false bias, they had seceded ; and in less than twelve months, more than doubled his congregation. His exterior deportment was devoid of affectation, and his religion untainted by bigotry or fanaticism ; and his disposition was so placid, serene, and circumspect,

that he was never known to exhibit any degree of extravagance, unless in the energy of his endeavours to assist the distressed, nor any vehemence but in the sincerity of his friendship.

Before Sir Philip English took leave of Mr. Goodwill, he informed him, that he was going, for the first time, to visit an estate which was situated at about the distance of twenty miles from thence : that he could not promise himself the pleasure of seeing him again on his return, as it was his intention to travel by a different road ; but that he should be happy to be favoured with his company at Blackwood-Hall, where he might depend on a friendly welcome, whenever he could contrive to indulge him with a visit ; and, in the meantime, if any thing should occur, in which Mr. Goodwill might think that his interest

could be of service to him, he might command his best exertions. “ My good
“ friend,” said the Baronet at his departure, pressing Mr. Goodwill’s hand as he stood at the door of the inn,—“ be assured
“ that I shall not forget you, nor the
“ pleasure which this unexpected meeting
“ with an old schoolfellow has afforded
“ me.”

Early the next morning, Sir Philip pursued his journey, and arrived safe at the mansion-house formerly inhabited by his relation, who, at her death, bequeathed to him the estate.

The house was in a very decayed condition ; the steward who now occupied it, being more intent upon the management of his farm, and the reparation of the tenants’ houses, which, in general, had fallen into a ruinous state, by the

negligence and parsimony of the old lady to whom they had formerly belonged, than desirous of taking advantage of the distance at which his landlord resided. In short, he was an honest man; and, as he repeatedly declared to Sir Philip during his stay in the country, more especially anxious for the Baronet to inspect his estate himself, that he might be convinced the large sums charged for repairs were absolutely necessary to be laid out, and not merely contrivances of the steward for the increase of his own private benefit and emolument.

The day after his arrival was principally spent in the examination of the different farms which composed the estate; and it was very evident, that, with due attention to the comforts of the tenantry, the land might be rendered considerably more va-

luable in a few years ; but the former possessor, who was a Roman Catholic, having shut herself up in the dilapidated mansion-house, with her spiritual counsellors, rosaries, and crucifixes, had paid scarcely any attention to secular affairs, besides that of merely receiving her rents when they became due.

The plan proposed by Sir Philip for the improvement of his estate, was to apply any increase of rent, which, as the leases expired, the farms might bear, in the reparation of the houses and other domestic offices ; and for this purpose he caused a plan to be drawn of the intended alterations ; and covenanted with the new lessees respectively, that they should carry this design into effect : reserving to himself, in case of failure on their part, to fulfil the engagement, which it was so

much for their comfort and interest to perform, to deprive them of their leases : and engaging to make a proportionable allowance to those who effected the completion of their share of the general improvements designed, in a shorter period than that which was prescribed in the agreement.

This plan, which was perfectly novel in that part of the country, afforded such general satisfaction, that it was not possible for Sir Philip to have devised any scheme by which he could have rendered himself more popular ; but there was one particular, in which, however desirous he might be of effecting an alteration, he almost despaired of success.

There had existed perpetual bickerings and dissensions between the rector and his parishioners, respecting tithes. These

differences were not likely to have been conciliated by his deceased relative, whose attachment to the Roman-Catholic communion, and inveterate antipathy to the resident clergyman, prompted her to frequent hostilities, and stimulated him to continual resentment. But although Sir Philip English, whose opinions on religious toleration were of the most liberal kind, might have hoped that his influence would have had more weight than that of his predecessor, he found that there was a powerful obstacle to its effect, in the disposition of the rector, who had the character of being even more covetous than his old antagonist the lady of the manor.

No man living cared less about personal compliments than Sir Philip English; and yet no one was more alive to the satisfaction afforded by generous and liberal

conduct. It did not escape his notice that the parson of the parish was one of the last persons who came to pay his respects : nevertheless, when he did come, the Baronet received him with kindness, and when the conversation touched upon the differences which prevailed on the subject of tithes, expressed his readiness to undertake the office of a mediator, and to do every thing in his power, towards restoring unanimity, amongst those whom it so much concerned to live peaceably together.

But he found the parson disposed to consider the law as his only friend ; and to be more desirous of ensuring the submission of his neighbours, than acquiring their esteem. On discoursing on this subject with the steward, Sir Philip un-

derstood that the present incumbent had been presented to the living by the ordinary ; but the steward said, that he had heard it asserted by some of the old inhabitants of the village, that the advowson belonged to the old lady before mentioned ; who being incapacitated by her religious principles from presenting to the benefice, that privilege had, by lapse, fallen to the ordinary ; although he confessed that he had never seen any documents respecting such a right being vested in the former possessors of the estate, now belonging to Sir Philip English.

“ No,” said the Baronet, “ that may well be, for there are scarcely any deeds remaining. Either through carelessness or design, they have been lost ; and although my right is strengthened

“ by possession, there would be great
“ difficulty in making a good title to the
“ estate, if I wished to sell it.”

In order to be *doing something*, as Sir Philip expressed himself, and not merely passing his time as an idle visitor, he gave directions for the demolition of part of the ancient mansion-house, and the reparation of the remainder: and desired that the workmen might commence their operations whilst he was on the spot.

Having received their instructions, one of them, who came to inspect the premises, previously to entering upon the business, embraced that opportunity of speaking to his new landlord.

The fellow was quite a rustic, and at first stood trembling before Sir Philip, as if he thought him a being naturally of a superior order; a notion which, howsoever

It might get into the world, has been sedulously cherished by the great, and readily imbibed by the vulgar and illiterate, almost ever since history has recorded the transactions of civilized life.

It is, perhaps, a great misfortune, that, in order to eradicate such unworthy ideas, it is almost impossible to avoid laying the foundation for others still more mischievous. Like the adhesive weeds, which springing up among corn, can not be separated from it without doing injury to the crop, so the respect bordering upon reverence, which ancient usage attached to the persons of the rich and powerful, can scarcely be corrected, and brought into more rational and consistent bounds, without teaching the opposite sentiments, of contempt and indignation, that men destitute of virtue or talents should be

often so disproportionably elevated, by the extent of their possessions, above others greatly their superiors in wisdom and merit; and thus introducing hatred, animosity, and a sort of levelling principle which is subversive of all good government and regularity.

When Sir Philip English had conversed with honest Hodges for a few minutes—the trepidation of the latter considerably decreased; and as he found the Baronet had nothing at all terrific in his manner, but seemed as harmless and more affable than any of the farmers in the village, his fears wholly subsided. Like those of the Hampshire man, who went to see the King, as his Majesty passed through Andover, in his way to Weymouth, and with great difficulty climbed into a high tree, whilst his neighbours lined the sides

of the road. When the King had gone by, the man came down: "Dang it," said he,—“ If I'se had but know'd, I “ should have been zafe enough, on the “ ground:” and being asked what he was afraid of? “ Why I'se always thought “ the King had a lion for one of his “ airms, and a unicorn for tother; and “ they be very terrible beasts, enough to “ make any body avraid to come near 'un. “ But I zee that the King have airms and “ honds like another mon; and ruffles “ down to the wrists of 'un.”

So, Hodges, after an interview of a few minutes with Sir Philip English, waxed more and more confident, until at length he assumed resolution enough to prefer a petition, which, however, he delivered with some hesitation; twirling his hat upon his thumb; and looking on the

ground, all the time.—It was that his honour, Sir Philip, would vouchsafe to stand godfather to his child, whom he intended should be christened the next day.

The Baronet, with the greatest affability, condescended to be one of the sponsors ; and honest Hodges said that he himself would be the other.

The next day was Sunday, and the countryman being excessively proud of the honour to be conferred upon him, dressed himself in his best clothes, and came to church, attended by a numerous company of his neighbours and acquaintances, most of whom had never before seen a baronet, and who all had the profoundest respect for the lord of the manor.

It was the custom of the village, that

baptisms, when performed on Sundays, should take place during the time of divine service;—the whole congregation were therefore witnesses of the ceremony.

The Baronet and honest Hodges took their places by the side of two comely females, selected out of the villagers, as godmothers to the infant, who happened to be a son.

The clergyman began the service, and in the usual form, calling upon the sponsors, to name the child; Hodges, with an audible voice, said “ *Beelzebub.*”

“ That is not a proper name,” said the minister, with an angry look, whilst the congregation scarcely refrained from laughing. “ Yes, it is, Sir,” replied Hodges, a little pragmatically:—“ I am sure it is

“ among the *proper names* in the New
“ Testament.”

“ Choose some other instead of it,”
said the parson. “ *Legion*,” cried Hodges,
without the least hesitation.

The clergyman, perhaps, foreseeing
from this specimen that it might be dan-
gerous to put Hodges’s memory to farther
trial—threw some drops of water in the
child’s face: and by a very neat misno-
mer, baptized him by the name of *Elijah*.
But his father always supposing this to
have been an accidental mistake, called
him *Legion*, and Legion he will remain
till the day of his death, in spite of the
parson and the parish register.

What confirmed Hodges in his deter-
mination, that he and not the parson had
a right to give any name he thought pro-

per to his own child, was, as he told his neighbours, because his “honour, Sir Philip, said so,” and gave him a twenty pound note the next morning, telling him to take care of it for the *young Legion*.

The workmen employed in the alterations which Sir Philip had designed to make in the mansion-house, which it was his intention to convert into a residence for his steward, and render more commodious for his own reception on a future visit than it was at present, in a few days dismantled the north side of the building, and reduced it almost to an heap of ruins. In pulling down some of the timbers of the roof, a closet adjoining to one of the principal bedchambers,—that in which the Baronet had slept whilst upon his visit there, was so much damaged that Sir Philip desired it might be entirely taken

down. In the execution of these directions, and whilst he was observing the progress of the workmen, a large trunk fell from an interspace between the ceiling and the roof.

The workmen were, of course, very eager to examine the contents, but it was fastened by a strong lock, and so well secured by plates of iron, that it was a considerable time before Sir Philip or those about him could gratify their curiosity. At last, the lid was forced open, and the first thing which presented itself was a black dress painted with the figures of devils and flames, yellow and red, and a cap belonging to it, ornamented in the same manner.

“What can this be?” exclaimed Sir Philip, “surely it can not have been any part of my cousin’s wardrobe. Harry,

“ is there any thing of this kind used
“ in the nunneries abroad ?” The work-
men, who had been in hopes of a more
valuable discovery, were as much at a loss
as the Baronet, about the uses of the
habit: but when Harry informed him
that it was the dress used by criminals
who have been condemned by the Inquisi-
tion to be burnt alive. “ Say you so ?” said
Sir Philip; “ then keep it to dress up
“ Guy Fawkes on the gunpowder treason
“ day.”

Wrapped in this awful habit, was a
paper parcel, which, on being opened,
proved to be the writings belonging to
the advowson before mentioned, which,
as they related to an heretical church, the
old lady had taken this method of inform-
ing posterity that she thought a contami-
nation of her abode. These were the

whole contents of the box, save a loose parchment, on which was written the Pope's anathema. Sir Philip cast his eye over it, "Fye, fye," said he, "this is quite shocking; my cousin must surely have been out of her senses:"—then telling the workmen that he was sorry there were no broad pieces in the box, the generous Baronet, ordered five guineas to be distributed amongst them, to make amends for their disappointment. "And now," said Sir Philip to himself, when he looked over the writings which he had found,—“if ever there be a vacancy in this rectory whilst I live, I will at least have the pleasure of making one good man comfortable.”

Before the Baronet left Staffordshire he resolved to entertain all his tenants without exception in the same hospitable

manner, which in the days of his grandfather, and the good old times before them, had filled the neighbourhood with cheerfulness.

For this purpose, he caused a table to be prepared in the largest barn in the village, and a sufficient quantity of plain and substantial food to be provided. Sir Philip himself presided, and after much entreaty, the rector condescended to be of the party; but he carried himself with so much hauteur and insolence, that, although, in the presence of the Baronet, it would have been almost impossible completely to damp the hilarity of the company,—the reverend gentleman by no means increased their satisfaction. He however left them at an early hour, having exhibited a specimen of pride and moroseness which even the good humour-

ed Sir Philip English could not pass over in silence. “ I think,” said the Baronet, “ that your parson seems to be as *ill-haired* a fellow, as I ever wish to meet with : but live peaceably with him, if you cannot lovingly ; and if he plagues you any more about his tithes, let me know.”

After having settled every thing relative to his estate, in the most satisfactory manner ; and attracted universal regard and esteem among his tenants and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who unani- mously declared, that they had never seen such grand doings at the hall, since old Sir Philip Ockington, the Baronet’s maternal grandfather, resided there : Sir Philip prepared to return home, and gave the necessary directions to his old servant Harry. But understanding that the te-

nants wished to shew him a public mark of their respect, and having overheard numerous inquiries respecting the time fixed for his departure ; he ordered Harry to saddle his horse unknown to any one, and then bidding him follow, to the town where he intended to pass the ensuing night, mounted his horse, and, to use his own expression, in order to avoid all obstreperousness, rode away without any ceremony of taking leave.

At the entrance of the town to which Sir Philip was going, he overtook a person on horseback, and inquiring of him what might be the sign of the best inn in the place, the stranger told him that the largest was the Lion ; but that he considered the King's Head the best : “ unless,” added the gentleman, “ you would object to it as being the travellers' house.”

Sir Philip professing his wish to go thither, the stranger said, that he also was going to the same place: they rode on together, and when Sir Philip arrived at the inn, he found it answerable to the favourable description which the traveller had given of it, as they were on the road.

There was but little company in the house; and the supper-table seemed likely to be occupied only by the Baronet and his fellow traveller, until two other persons came in, and, according to the usage of the house, without ceremony, added themselves to the party.

One of them was a plain steady man, who made no secret of his belonging to a wholesale house in the city, for which he had travelled during many years:—the other, who was dressed in all the extrava-

gant frippery of a Bond-street loungee of the first fashion, drove a smart gig, was attended, or rather accompanied, by a livery servant, and gave himself airs, at least in proportion to the extravagance of his appearance.

Perceiving that the rest of the company were strangers to each other as well as to himself, he soon engrossed almost the whole of the conversation, and after touching upon a variety of common-place topics, with the air of a man who thinks he is doing a great favour to his company by talking nonsense, proceeded to relate an account of a magnificent fête, at which, he said that he had been present a few days before.

“ It was given,” said he, “ by a Baronet on his coming of age. He is a particular friend of mine; and it was

“ very fortunate that I happened to be
“ passing through the neighbourhood, by
“ mere accident, just as he had written
“ to invite me to come down: for he is
“ a jolly young dog, and we kept it up,
“ in such a style as *quite astonished the*
“ *natives*. Take it altogether,” continued
the communicative gentleman, “ it was as
“ handsome an entertainment as they ever
“ have seen in the county, for many
“ years.”

Sir Philip inquired in what county it was, through which the gentleman had been travelling, and to his great surprise was answered, “ Staffordshire:” and his own name was mentioned as that of the young Baronet *just come of age*.

The story of Mount-Pleasant by the hatter with whom he had lately travelled to Oxford, was still fresh in the Baronet’s me-

mory, and he diverted himself by tracing, in gradation, the similarity of the incidents.

“ You were present, Sir, at the entertainment you have mentioned ! ” said Sir Philip.

“ Oh, yes, Sir,” replied the traveller, “ I had the honour of being deputy chairman, on the occasion.”

One of the persons present remarked, that Staffordshire had been always famous for hospitality, as was evident from the Spectator planting Sir Roger de Coverley there. “ It is very true,” said the gentleman, “ and all that has ever been said or sung about it, was realized, I assure you, by my friend, Sir Philip, on the late occasion. We had an ox roasted whole, and one side of it constituted the centre dish. It was the largest ox, I think, that I ever saw ; I do believe it

“ was nearly as long as—this room is
“ wide.”——The company looked a little
incredulous, for the apartment was spa-
cious:——“ Nay,” continued the travel-
ler, “ I am certain that it must have mea-
“ sured eight or nine feet long, at the
“ least !”

“ The entertainment, I presume,” said
one of the party, “ was given in the
“ neighbourhood of Wedgewood’s manu-
“ factory, or it might have been difficult
“ to procure a dish large enough to have
“ held your beef.”

The traveller was a little disconcerted,
but soon recovering himself, proceeded to
panegyrize his *friend*, the Baronet (as he
termed him), with so much ardour and
enthusiasm, that Sir Philip was absolutely
deterred from discovering himself, lest the
company should think him influenced by

mere vanity, in thus laying claim to the praises lavished upon him so profusely. However, accident effected that which he could not venture to attempt: for, having set out in too much haste to give any particular directions how he might be found by the servant; when Harry, in pursuance of the Baronet's orders, had followed him to Leicester, he was as much at a loss how to discover his master, as if he had dived in search of a particular oyster, in the Mediterranean sea.

As the most probable method, he first searched one inn, and then another; but when he came to the King's Head, they would not permit him to go into the stable, as he had done at the other inns, in order to look for Sir Philip's horse, until he mentioned his master's name. This was a case of such emergency, that, not conceiving

there could be any harm in deviating for once from his general orders, old Harry said that his master was Sir Philip English of Blackwood-Hall.

Whilst the servants of the inn and Harry were engaged without,—the Baronet was endeavouring to give a check to his panegyrist within, by interposing a few questions.—“ Did I understand you
“ rightly, Sir,” said Sir Philip, “ that
“ your friend was just come of age ? ”

“ Exactly so ; ” replied the traveller.

“ I thought that he had been an old
“ man,” said Sir Philip, “ nearly, or
“ quite, as old as myself ! ”

“ O no, good Sir, you have been mis-
“ informed ; we were years’ children, I
“ assure you, nursed and brought up to-
“ gether ; indeed we are reckoned very
“ much alike.”

“ Then,” added Sir Philip, “ you can
“ not mean Sir Philip English of Black-
“ wood Hall.”

“ The same, Sir, I assure you ; we are
“ as intimate as brothers,” replied the
traveller : “ I wish, with all my heart, he
“ were here, for he is as free and affable
“ as yourself, or ——” The door open-
ed, and the landlord stepping in said, “ a
“ person at the door is inquiring for Sir
“ Philip English of Blackwood - Hall.
“ Does that title belong to any gentleman
“ here ? ”

“ It is my name,” said Sir Philip.

“ Your servant has arrived, Sir Philip,”
replied the landlord, and retired with a
low bow.

The condition of the traveller can not,
perhaps, be readily conceived ; but it
would be still more difficult to describe it :

the sensations of his companions may be more easily conjectured.

“Come, come, Sir,” said Sir Philip, who perceived his panegyrist and friend crest-fallen in a considerable degree;—
“there is no harm done; only you have
“said much more of your friend than he
“deserves; but, if ever you are disposed
“to tell the story again, I must beg you
“to cut off the tip of the ox’s tail.”

CHAPTER XV.

THE second day's journey introduced Sir Philip into a borough, amidst all the turbulence of a contested election. The conduct of the English populace on such occasions is generally known ; but greater degrees of violence and altercation had scarcely ever disgraced opposite parties than at this election, in which the rival candidates were nearly of equal opulence, and their pretensions founded on similar grounds. They were young and ardent in pursuit of the enviable distinction of sitting in the great council of the nation ; and modern times and manners had furnished them with abundance of new in-

struments for mutual annoyance. The press teemed with placards, caricatures, and hand-bills, in which the deficiency of wit was made up by a superabundance of scurrility and personal invective. Among the attendants of the candidates were a number of celebrated pugilists, who gave an occasional variety to this scene of tumultuous uproar, by a few practical lessons of their genteel and useful art, *pro bono publico*.

The first object which attracted the notice of Sir Philip English, as he entered the town, was a great number of casks which were piled up directly opposite to the hustings, which, according to the usual custom, were erected in the market-place of the town. On the summit of this pyramid, elevated on the top of a cask, stood the pedagogue of a neighbouring vil-

lage, an old fellow who had for years distinguished himself on similar occasions : and his assistance was courted with as much solicitude, by the candidates, as if he had been possessed of the greatest property of any person in the town.

He was, in short, a sort of jack-pudding at an election, and filled up the intervals between the acts performed by the rest of the puppets, in a manner extremely amusing to the sons and daughters of John Bull, who rewarded his speechifyings with even more applause than they bestowed upon the graver orations of the candidates themselves.

The pedagogue was habited in a rusty damask gown, wore an immense perriwig, and carried in his hand a hat of proportionable dimensions ; so that he formed no bad centre for a comic audience.

Sir Philip, at first sight, mistook this personage for the parson of the parish ; but, upon inquiry, found, that, although he united, in his own person, the multifarious characters of a schoolmaster, barber, toothdrawer, brushmaker, sexton, and grave-digger, and occasionally officiated as a sort of underling lawyer ; and even lent a hand in the absence of the farrier, in certain operations necessary amongst cattle, he never attempted to infringe the privileges of the church. Some persons affected to believe he was deterred through fear of the parson, to whom his duty, as a sexton, might seem to render him subservient : but, besides, that Josiah was a person who always boldly asserted the independence of his principles, yea, with as much vehemence, and, perhaps, with as much truth, as John Wilkes, Alderman

Beckford, or Sir Francis Burdett, himself; he said, that he had lived to see so many staymakers, tailors, and tinkers, forsaking their lawful calling for holy orders, or pretended holy orders, that he was ashamed to join the crew.

This prodigy of electioneering oddities and orators, was addressing the populace in behalf of his favourite candidate, who had, a moment before, been compelled to retire from the hustings, by the hisses and groans of those very persons, who, in a moment, became all ear to their old acquaintance, Josiah:—so true it is, that one man may venture upon the greatest absurdity, without incurring ridicule, and that another scarcely dare take a pinch of snuff, or put on his gloves, for fear of being laughed at.

The crowd was so great that any attempt

to pass the orator, until he had finished his harangue, would have been not only difficult but dangerous. Sir Philip, therefore, had an opportunity of appreciating the oratorical powers of Josiah, in the following address, which he delivered with great emphasis, and a Stentorian voice ; from the head of the barrel :—

“ Friends and Countrymen,—On this
“ bibiferous, cibiferous, and viniferous oc-
“ casion, it may be naturally expected
“ that some of you will get drunk. Be it
“ so, with all my heart ; but do not act
“ like madmen. You have just now in-
“ terrupted the best speech that ever you
“ did not hear, by hissing and hooting ;
“ whilst the man who would save you
“ from the jaws of that Leviathan, Bo-
“ naparte, was attempting to express his
“ sentiments. And now you stand gap-

“ ing to hear what Josiah has to say to
“ you. Hear him then, you ragamuffins
“ who grovel among the sweepings of the
“ streets and the filth of the shambles of
“ this dirty town : hear him, you publi-
“ cans and sinners, who were not content
“ to have your cellars gauged, and to be
“ paid for as much liquor as they could
“ hold :—hear him, you dealers in blood
“ and garbage, who add to the noise of
“ this clamorous day, by your marrow-
“ bones and cleavers, and increase the
“ “ transport and rude harmony ” of
“ your brethren : you, monopolizers of
“ flour, and rogues in grain, who create
“ an artificial scarcity, and grow fat by
“ famine, hear the words of Josiah :—
“ you, manufacturers of weak drink and
“ sophisticators of crab-juice, who convert
“ your breweries into drug warehouses,

“ and substitute coculus indicus, quassia,
“ and mundungus, for Kent and Farnham
“ hops ; and lastly, you, word-merchants
“ of this ancient borough, scribes and
“ pharisees, who, in sheep skins and goat
“ skins, make merchandize of your
“ neighbours, devour widows’ houses,
“ and pollute yourselves with your idols,
“ mind what I say.

“ If you are resolved upon a continu-
“ ance of the uproarious behaviour which
“ you have shewn to-day, your man will
“ lose his election ; for Sir Samuel Thun-
“ der has no enemy in the world, and
“ therefore I am sure that those who his-
“ sed him are of his own party ;—and he
“ swears that if ever you hiss him again,
“ he will not accept one of your votes ;
“ and I swear, that you shall not have one
“ drop more cyder out of the casks on

“ which I now stand, so help me, Bac-
“ chus !”

This speech was received with unbounded applause : but whilst Josiah was looking round with an air of triumph, at having been able to obtain a hearing, when it was denied to the candidates, an unlucky accident happened ; — the head of the cask on which he stood, being in a bad condition, gave way, and at once plunged the orator into a hogshead of cyder, and threw his auditors into an immoderate fit of laughter.

Josiah did not remain long in pickle, but when extricated from his uncomfortable situation, was carried away on the shoulders of the mob, amidst reiterated shouts ; and Sir Philip English at length reached an inn, where, after much entreaty, and a little bribery, he was pro-

misad the best accommodation which the confusion of the election would permit.

As he was amusing himself with looking upon the motley group with which the streets were thronged, he thought that he could distinguish, at the head of a party with blue and orange cockades, a young gentleman who very much resembled Jack English ; and as they approached nearer, the Baronet perceived that it was really his nephew, accompanied by Lord Rivulet.

At the same instant they recognized Sir Philip, and soon forced their way through the crowd, to the window where he was standing. The surprize of so unexpected a meeting, gave way, on the part of Sir Philip, to a different sensation : for he perceived that Lord Rivulet's arm was supported in a sling, and that his

nephew wore a large plaster above his left eye.

“What ! another accident, my Lord ?” exclaimed Sir Philip :—“did the machine break down, or have you been running donkies in a tandem ?”

His Lordship denied the charge ; assured the Baronet that he had neither been in a *tan-dem* nor a *tan-pit*, since the Rye-gate business ; and when he thought that by his gaiety he had sufficiently prepared Sir Philip for an explanation of the condition in which he saw them, frankly told him,—that thinking it would conduce to the public amusement, Jack English and himself had at first taken opposite sides at the election,—his Lordship being true blue, and Jack for the orange party : but that some smart rubs having passed between them, had been observed upon, by

two or three military men present, and they had found it necessary in order to do away any idea of unfair play or collusion respecting the votes, to vindicate their honour by a duel; and had accordingly settled the affair with pistols: having thus removed every stain of reflection, they had, in the next place, consolidated their respective parties into one, and clubbed their votes, by which they had acquired so much favour among the *mobility*, that they were determined to keep up the fun and augment the expenses of the candidates until the utmost verge of the time allotted to the returning officer. They had got all the *sidesmen* in their pay, and thus were able to throw the balance of votes ultimately into the hands of whichever candidate they might think proper.

Sir Philip, although very angry at the

intemperate heat of these inconsiderate young men, was yet secretly pleased to observe that they appeared to be on as good terms as ever : for, as he used to say, “ of all sins ingratitude is the worst ; “ and of all sentiments, those of an unforgiving temper are the most despicable.”

But when he inquired more particularly respecting the quarrel, which he supposed must have preceded the duel, he found that no such circumstance as that of a dispute had ever taken place, but that the duel entirely arose out of an electioneering frolic. For Lord Rivulet having sent his coach ten miles into the country to bring a fat old burgess to the election, when the old man arrived, he chose to vote for the opposite party ; and afterwards Jack English contrived to change the ribbon

on the old man's hat without his knowledge, and then sent him home again in my Lord's carriage.

This was insisted upon by a surly fellow who had been once in the dragoons, where he was distinguished by the number of quarrels he had fomented, as an affront not to be endured with honour ; and Lord Rivulet was too much a man of the world to hesitate how he should proceed on such an occasion. They therefore agreed upon a meeting, and went to the spot with great composure in the dickey of Lord Rivulet's yellow carriage.

Jack English remonstrated that it might make his Lordship's hand unsteady, and would have persuaded him to decline the reins,—but he would not be prevailed upon ; observing, that perhaps he might not be able to drive back again.

The ground was measured out, and the combatants exchanged shots without effect. By the discharge of the Captain's second pistol, his Lordship had one of the bones of his right arm broken. Perceiving a pause, Jack exclaimed,—“ my dear Rivulet, are you hurt ? ”

“ D—me, Jack,” replied his Lordship, “ you have winged me :—but stay, I can use the other hand.”

“ Take your time then,” rejoined English, “ and be steady.”

“ Mind your bread-basket, my dear boy,” said Lord Rivulet, and discharged his pistol, the contents of which grazed the forehead of his friend, and occasioned a considerable loss of blood.

His Lordship, apprehensive that English was mortally wounded, ran to him, and was rejoiced to find that no further

mischief had been done. My Lord had his arm bound up, and Jack his forehead dressed, by a surgeon who attended near the spot. They then returned in the same manner as they had gone to the field, excepting that the reins were committed to English, in consequence of his Lordship's wound.

“ I am heartily glad that you are no more hurt, Jack.”

“ And so am I, Rivulet, that you came off no worse. If you had fallen, I should never have been comfortable, the longest day I lived.”

“ Nor I, if I had killed you,” said his Lordship. “ This popping-bout was a silly thing, Jack : but you know there was no avoiding it.”

They then agreed to join their forces ; and to the astonishment of the rival can-

didates, who with all the virulence of invectives with which each loaded his antagonist, had no notion of venturing their lives upon the contest in which they were so much more concerned than Lord Rivulet and Jack English, returned to the hustings in the most cordial manner;—and to shew to the public that there was not the least animosity, joined the orange with the blue, and always afterwards appeared together, with their united party.

“ Upon my word,” said Sir Philip English, when he heard this account from the duellists themselves, “ you are the
“ most unaccountable young men—I ever
“ heard of: to fight a duel not only in
“ good humour, but, as it appears, in
“ perfect friendship.”

“ We might have been called so, indeed,
“ Sir Philip, in the last century, for then

“ duelling was a serious matter ; but in
“ modern times, it is quite a different af-
“ fair. An Hibernian goes to the East-
“ Indies. After his return, he meets his
“ friend and gives an account of his tra-
“ vels. “ I saw,” says he, “ in Ceylon,
“ “ anchovies growing upon trees, by
“ “ thousands !”

“ “ Anchovies growing upon trees,”
“ repeats his friend, “ that must be a
“ “ mistake, it is quite impossible. An-
“ “ chovies are fish, you know.” ”

“ “ By my soul and conscience now,”
“ says the traveller, “ you may call them
“ “ fish or what you will ; but I tell you
“ “ that I saw them growing upon the
“ “ trees in clusters, all over the island,
“ “ and if you doubt what I say, I must
“ “ insist upon satisfaction.” ”

“ “ With all my heart and life,” says

the other:—they step into a coffee-house, together,—“ Here, waiter, bring “ coffee and pistols for two !” They shut the door, drink the coffee, load the pistols and fire at each other. The traveller kills his doubting antagonist, and the next moment exclaims: “ Oh, by “ “ my soul now, I am the most misera- “ “ ble fellow in the world. I have killed “ “ my best friend Mr. O’Slaharty ; and “ “ all through a little bit of a slip of “ “ my tongue. They were *capers* and “ “ not anchovies !—Oh if I could but “ “ restore my dear friend, Mr. O’Sla- “ “ harty.” ”

“ I see very little difference,” said Sir Philip, “ between your lordship and “ Jack, and the persons you have de- “ scribed ; and can only express my “ hope that you will in time have sown

“ your wild oats ; and get wiser as you
“ grow older.”

My Lord Rivulet and Jack were on a trip to Newmarket ; and finding that the general election was likely to afford them, perhaps, as much sport as the race course, had resolved to amuse themselves in the manner in which Sir Philip English found them engaged.

When his lordship understood that Sir Philip, who as he was journeying homeward, had only accidentally passed through the town, found that there was a considerable difficulty and uncertainty about procuring lodgings ; he insisted on accommodating the Baronet at his apartments, whither he immediately conducted him : and in compliance with his lordship's very earnest entreaties, Sir Philip consented to remain there during the next day. Moreover,

on inquiry, he discovered, that one of the candidates was the son of a naval officer with whom he had been formerly acquainted, and therefore accompanied Lord Rivulet to the hustings in order to pay his respects to him.

It happened that his lordship and the Baronet were separated, as they attempted to pass through the crowd; but, at last, Sir Philip gaining the steps, clambered up as well as he could, till he was stopped by the clerks employed to keep the poll-books.—“Your name, Sir?” “Your name, if you please?” “Sir Philip English,” replied the Baronet—“but I am not coming to vote, I only want to speak to one of the candidates.”

The hubbub was so great that it was almost impossible to hear a word that was

spoken from below : “ A thousand thanks
“ to you, Sir ; a thousand thanks,” said
the three rival candidates in a breath.
“ You do me great honour :”—and so the
Baronet’s name was inserted in the poll-
books belonging to each candidate ; and it
was not until they were about to adminis-
ter the elector’s oath, that he could con-
vince them he had nothing to do with the
election :—he had, however, gained a
place on the hustings, where, being met
by Lord Rivulet and his nephew, he was
presented in all due form to the candidate
whom he wished to see ; and received in
the most polite and respectful manner.

Whilst he was discoursing with the
gentlemen around him, on the state of the
poll, and similar topics, the noise and
confusion seemed to increase, in a prodi-
gious degree : and, with great difficulty,

a gentleman dressed in black and attended by a large party of electors, made his way to the place where the returning officer was seated, and presenting him with a paper was immediately admitted upon the stage: for, the respectable magistrate who presided on this occasion, was not one of those pettyfogging attornies, who, in the character of deputies, to the disgrace of some of the first cities of the empire, are permitted to violate the elective franchise by their arrogance and impertinence, even to the candidates themselves.

The gentleman first bowing respectfully to the candidates, and then to the populace, came forward to the front of the hustings, and presenting himself to the electors, prepared to address them.

Sir Philip English inquired, who he

was; but no one there had ever seen him before.—He began his speech, which was very well conceived and expressed, by stating that he had delivered his qualification to the proper officer, and presented himself to their notice and choice, as a man, who, feeling the fulness of his title to independence, believed himself to have an undoubted right to afford to such of the electors as were virtuous and unbiassed, an opportunity of asserting themselves, and curbing, if not crushing, the monstrous evils of bribery, corruption, and ministerial influence, on which he enlarged, with so much pathos, that Sir Philip English, if he had had a vote, would have been the first to support him.

He asserted, that bribery and undue influence could be proved on the part of each of the other candidates, and that, as

by the treating act, they would be consequently rendered incapable of sitting in the House;—if only five or six independent men would give him their unbought and unbiassed votes, he pledged himself in the most solemn manner, in the face of themselves and all the people of England, to try the merits and legality of his election; but that in whatever light his boldness in thus introducing himself might be considered, he was determined not to expend a single guinea on the occasion.

He again launched out into an invective against the profligacy of the times, and the corruption of ministers; and as soon as he had finished his speech, which was delivered with great force and animation, an old clergyman stepped forward and seconded him in a speech of considerable length. Books were immediately opened,

and several persons enrolled their names in his support.

Although it was only on the principle which he had mentioned, the proof of bribery and treating, which he had pledged himself to bring home to his opponents, that he could entertain any rational hopes of success, there still occasionally came forward a number of persons, who, in testimony of their respect for the principles he had publicly professed, added their names to the list of his voters.

The candidates adjourned to their respective quarters, to dinner, excessively chagrined at the events of the morning : for it was an undoubted fact, that there would be no great difficulty to prove that the treating act had been infringed : and although the gentleman who had made his appearance so unexpectedly, was a stran-

ger to the rest of the candidates, it was evident, from his manner and expressions, that he was not only earnest but determined in his resolution.

Under these circumstances, the gentleman who was before at the bottom of the poll, resolved to withdraw himself, thinking it absurd to risque the loss of his money in so hopeless and futile an opposition.

On their return to the hustings, the candidates came forward respectively, according to their rank and seniority, and attempted to address the audience, but the mob would not permit either of them to be heard, until they understood that this was intended as the farewell speech of one of the candidates. To this gentleman, therefore, they were pleased to lend

an indulgent ear, while he addressed to them a few words, at parting.

The new candidate then came forward, and was received with distinguished applause, notwithstanding even the efforts of the orator Josiah, who again mounted the rostrum, and attempted to divide the attention of the crowd.

However, they listened patiently to a long and elaborate speech, which was calculated to feed their prejudices, bias their opinions, and impose upon their minds; applauding the speaker at every interval of his discourse until he had exhausted almost every topic of public grievances and discontent; when, on a sudden an elderly man with a countenance remarkably stern and severe, presented himself to the orator (having by some means prevailed upon the officers who kept the hustings to ad-

mit him to the place where the votes were taken) and gravely asked, "What are you doing here, Sir?"

The countenance of the speaker instantly changed, perhaps as much as that of Nebuchadnezzar at the words of Daniel; the colour forsook his cheeks, he stared wildly, and almost ghastly, around him, and folding his arms, with a sort of characteristic submissiveness, in a very respectful tone of voice, replied: "I have just finished, Sir, and will attend you, directly."—He made a bow to the astonished auditory, descended from the hustings and walked away very quietly with *his keeper*, for such was the character of the elderly man from whose custody this unfortunate maniac had escaped the day before: and having found his way to

the election had thus undertaken a very conspicuous part in the performance.

The unfortunate gentleman was a person of rank and fortune. He was said to have lost his senses through a love affair, some years before; and his relations being more intent upon the care of his estate (which was to become their own property at his decease) than anxious about the comforts which, in his lucid intervals, Sir Jeffrey was still capable of enjoying, had removed him from place to place, under the pretext of economy, always being least satisfied when he was most comfortable,—until at length his disorder being more confirmed, he was removed by legal authority from the custody of his family, and placed under the care of a medical superintendant of distinguished skill and humanity.

From this place, however, he had contrived to effect his escape; and having found his way to the election, procured the use of pen and ink, and most ingeniously fabricated the certificate, which on his coming to the hustings he gave to the returning officer.

The persons who accompanied poor Sir Jeffrey were a party, into which he had introduced himself, at one of the inns, and who were equally pleased with his politics and eloquence; and if he had not quietly submitted to return with his keeper, there is no doubt that the latter would have been sacrificed by the mob, who would have assuredly joined in revenging the cause of their favourite; for the sentiments which he had delivered were exactly consonant with those of the most celebrated amongst modern patriots; and

his speech did not contain any thing which could prove him more a madman than some who have been, at least, equally violent ; and have actually been elected into Parliament.

Sir Philip English having witnessed as much of the confusion and bustle of the election, the breaking of windows and of heads, as he had any inclination to see, pursued his journey to Blackwood-Hall.

As the Baronet and his servant were proceeding at a pretty brisk rate, the horse on which the latter rode, fell and threw his rider, by which he was so much stunned, that Sir Philip, for a few minutes, was considerably alarmed lest the old man's skull should have been fractured.

Sir Philip alighted immediately ; and whilst he was endeavouring to raise him from the ground, a gentleman who had

seen the accident from his own house, which was near the road, came and offered his assistance.

Fortunately, Harry was only stunned by the fall, and had not received any material injury : but the gentleman, with so much earnestness and good nature, requested Sir Philip to let him rest a little while, at his house, that the Baronet accepted his offer ; and some hartshorn being procured, Harry soon recovered from the shock he had received by the fall. In the mean time the dinner was announced, and the host obligingly entreated Sir Philip to partake with him.

He accepted the invitation, and was conducted by the master of the house into a large parlour, in which he found a party of six or seven gentlemen already assembled. They sat down together, and

some general remarks were succeeded by an account of the accident which had happened to Sir Philip's servant. This by degrees introduced the subject of the election, and the Baronet mentioned the extraordinary incident which had occurred there, the day before. The company were much entertained with the anecdote, particularly one gentleman, who, looking at his opposite neighbour at table, said, "I would make any bet that it was poor Sir Jeffrey. Pray, Doctor," (addressing himself to the master of the house) "have you heard any thing of him?"

"I have, Sir," was the only reply:—and the gentleman afterwards requested Sir Philip to describe the person of the candidate more particularly; which he did, and added, "I should not have thought it possible for a lunatic to have

“ made so correct and sensible a speech :

“ I never heard a better, in my life.”

The master of the house, who seemed to be a person of very grave deportment, and serious manners, said but little, but he seemed very observant of, and attentive to all his company, frequently addressing himself to Sir Philip, requesting that he would excuse a very plain dinner, and desiring him to consider himself at home.

Before the cloth was removed the gentleman stepped out of the room ; which at the instant was scarcely observed by any one ; but in a few seconds, the gentleman who had been most inquisitive respecting the maniac at the election, began to condole with Sir Philip on the accident which had befallen his servant, and detained them on the road : observing

that it was remarkable that a circumstance nearly similar had happened to himself, and occasioned his own introduction to the same house, a few months before.

“ I think we were extremely fortunate,” said the Baronet, “ to meet with so hospitable and generous an entertainer :”—here he was interrupted by two or three voices at once.

“ You do not know him, Sir ! He is the veriest wretch in human shape.”

“ What do you mean ?” said Sir Philip : “ surely you are not speaking of the gentleman who has just left the room ?”

Two or three of the party began as with one voice to narrate a melancholy tale of having been carried away from their home, or detained by stress of weather, or the restiveness of their horses on the

road, and thus inveigled into that house, out of which, they told the Baronet, neither he nor they should ever escape.

Sir Philip looked around him in astonishment:—and inquired, “ Why not ?
“ who can hinder us ? ”

“ Look at the bars of the windows and
“ the height of the garden-wall ; ” replied one of the most vehement. The Baronet now for the first time observed that the windows were secured in a very unusual manner, and that the wall which enclosed the court into which the room opened, was of uncommon height, and guarded by palissadoes on the top. He could not help being surprised that he had not before noticed these circumstances ; and asked for what purpose, or under what pretext, the gentleman made prisoners of his guests ?

“ That you will know too soon,” said one of them, “ he is the most diabolical
“ of all tyrants. Some think him a ne-
“ cromancer, because nobody visits him,
“ but he puts them under spells and en-
“ chantments.”—The servant entered the room, and going up to Sir Philip, said his master begged to speak with him alone.

“ For heaven’s sake, do not stir a
“ step,” said two or three voices, at once ;
“ if you leave this room, you are undone
“ for ever ; dear Sir, do not leave us,
“ pray, let me intreat you,” said they all.

“ What can this mean ? ” said Sir Philip sternly, to the servant. “ I will inform you in a moment, Sir,” said the man, “ if you will please to walk this way.” He opened a door into an adjoining apartment, where he found the master of the house, his wife, and daughters assembled,

with wine and fruit upon the table.

“ Sir,” said the reverend gentleman, “ I
“ beg pardon for not having previously in-
“ formed you of the company you were
“ to meet with ; but I was afraid that it
“ might have indisposed you from favour-
“ ing me with your company, and that,
“ although my patients are all in a state
“ perfectly harmless and inoffensive, the
“ very idea of sitting down with persons
“ labouring under mental derangement,
“ might have rendered you uncomfort-
“ able. You will, I hope, forgive my
“ not having before told you that my
“ name is W——s ; and, allow me to
“ intreat you to make up, for a very bad
“ dinner, with some fruit, out of my own
“ garden, and wine, which is, at least,
“ called good.”

Sir Philip shook hands with the worthy

doctor, and sat down to the enjoyment of the dessert, relieved from all apprehensions on his own account, but with increasing astonishment at this farther proof of the imperceptible boundaries between sound sense and absolute madness.

The doctor informed Sir Philip, that the eloquent gentleman, whose speech, at the election, had met with so much applause was one of his patients: but observed, that he made it a rule never to enter into any discussion of such subjects, in the presence of the unfortunate persons themselves, which was the reason of his remaining totally silent, when Sir Jeffrey was mentioned during the time of dinner. He said, that some of the party would have maintained an argument, perhaps, during the whole day, that the proceeding of the unhappy maniac, at the election,

was perfectly consistent, and reasonable; while, perhaps, another of them, would have opposed it, with perfect good temper and politeness:—but, that it sometimes happened, such discourses were suddenly changed, for reflections upon their own case, and then the most dreadful paroxysms occasionally followed, insomuch, that he had seen one of the gentlemen, who had behaved with the greatest calmness for several days, become, in a moment, upon a slight contradiction, so perfectly maniacal, that, being at dinner, he took up a large whiting, and, to the terror of the company, swallowed it whole. The effect it produced upon the party present, added the doctor, was very remarkable. One of them turned to the doctor very gravely, and said, “ I suppose, Sir, it will
“ not be so liable to be injurious to him

“ as if he were in a sound state of mind :
“ —I should have as soon attempted swal-
“ lowing the salt-cellar.”

The doctor farther informed Sir Philip that his presence was usually sufficient to quell ordinary disturbances among them, and to maintain good order and regularity, and that even the ringing of a little bell, which gave notice of his coming, would often be sufficient to restore tranquillity.

END OF VOL. II.

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